GCA's Kim receives full scholarship to Columbia University. PAGE 2
HANMI occupancy at 32% in Oct. 2024. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Wife of ex-Palau president released

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Toribiong

Due to an active arrest warrant in the U.S. mainland, the wife of former Palau president of Toribiong was placed under arrest upon entry at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Monday afternoon and released the next day, according to the Department of Public Safety. See WIFE on Page 4

AS WORLD MARKS INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL RIGHTS DAY

Animal rights advocates urge more love and protection

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Coinciding with Human Rights Day, over 50 countries celebrated International Animal Rights Day yesterday as animal-lovers worldwide recognized that animals of all shapes and sizes deserve the same protection as people.

Participants of International Animal

See ANIMAL on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A lot is going through the hazel eyes of this caramel furbaby who endured some form of animal abuse before her arrival at the dog shelter.

No decision reached in MACS' bid for QC

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Newly established airline Micronesia Air Connection Services aims to provide inter-island air services using these planes pursuant to a qualifying certificate from the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It appears J&P Holdings (CNMI) LLC, operator of the recently established Micronesia

See MACS on Page 4

Marianas Beach Resort hosts Christmas concert

RACQUEL FLOYD
Saipan Pacific Winds Band and U.S, Air Force Pacific Brass concluded their Christmas concert with a group photo last Saturday at the ballroom of the Marianas Beach Resort.

RACQUEL FLOYD
The Marianas Beach Resort ballroom was packed with concertgoers last Saturday afternoon durig the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band and U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific Brass Quintet's Christmas concert.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

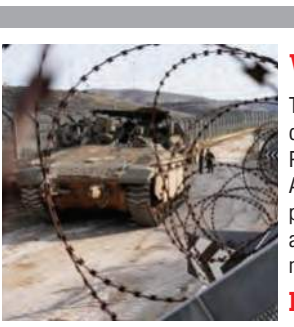
The Marianas Beach Resort ballroom was packed with concertgoers last Saturday afternoon as the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band and U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific Brass Quintet held a Christmas concert.

Saipan Pacific Winds director and conductor Atsuko Eck mentioned that their group was the first to use Marianas Beach

See CONCERT on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Docomo Pacific proudly announces a special collaboration with Carabao Brewing to introduce Prima's Pint, a limited-edition brown ale crafted to celebrate the holiday season and highlight the power of community and collaboration.
PAGE 9



WORLD
The dramatic downfall of Syrian President Bashar Assad presents possible danger, and an opening, for neighboring Israel.
PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE
The Golden Globes will return in January with major star appeal thanks to a slew of big-name nominees, including Zendaya, Timothée Chalamet, Angelina Jolie, Daniel Craig, Denzel Washington, Ariana Grande and more.
PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

GCA's Kim receives full scholarship to Columbia University

Grace Christian Academy is thrilled to announce that GCA senior Taehee Kim has been awarded a prestigious full four-year scholarship to Columbia University through the QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship. Columbia University, one of the most renowned institutions of higher learning globally, is celebrated for its academic excellence, historical significance, and far-reaching global influence.

Out of more than 25,500 applicants, Kim is among the 2,627 exceptional finalists matched with one of QuestBridge's elite partner colleges—a remarkable honor that speaks to her dedication and outstanding achievements.

This year's QuestBridge Match recipients are from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories, including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Kim

Kim's accomplishment is the result of her relentless pursuit of excellence—not only in academics but also in leadership, community service, extracurricular activities, and character.

GCA thanked God for blessing Kim with the strength and perseverance to reach this milestone. Reflecting on her achievement, she shared, "To me personally, QuestBridge means opportunity. Coming from a low-income family, I was worried about what options I might have for higher education. I worked twice as hard in my studies and extracurriculars to stand out and build a reputation, hoping to qualify for merit-based scholarships. Discovering QuestBridge opened my eyes to a whole new perspective on higher education. Being able to attend my dream school without worrying about financial burdens is such a blessing. I am forever grateful for the support I've received in pursuing my dreams, and it motivates me to work even harder to achieve my goals."

Kim plans to study Political Science, Human Rights, and International Relations at Columbia.

"We have no doubt that she will make a lasting impact on the world. The GCA community is incredibly proud of Taehee and eagerly anticipates all that is ahead for her," said the Navy Hill school. ***(PR)***

Commerce reminds companies to file BOIR with FinCEN

The CNMI Department of Commerce Office of the Registrar of Corporations hereby gives notice to the public that all corporations, LLCs, nonprofits, and other entities must file a Beneficial Ownership Information Report with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). Failing to do so will result in $500 daily penalties with the federal government.

A reporting company created or registered to do business before Jan, 1, 2024, will have until Jan. 1, 2025 to file its initial beneficial ownership information report.

A reporting company created or registered on or after Jan. 1, 2024, and before Jan. 1, 2025, will have 90 calendar days after receiving notice of the company's creation or registration to file its initial BOI report. This 90-calendar day deadline runs from the time the company receives actual notice that its creation or registration is effective.

Reporting companies created or registered on or after Jan. 1, 2025, will have 30 calendar days from actual or public notice that the company's creation or registration is effective to file their initial BOI reports with FinCEN.

There is no fee for submitting your beneficial ownership information report to FinCEN.

You can file your BOI report to FinCEN electronically through a secure filing system available via FinCEN's BOI E-Filing website (https://boiefiling.fincen.gov).

The BOI Report is not handled by the Department of Commerce. For more information, visit the FinCEN website (https://fincen.gov/boi). ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Board of Directors

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered, and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
   - A. Call to Order
   - B. Roll Call
   - C. Reading of Notice Calling Special Meeting
   - D. Adoption of Agenda

II. CUC Drug Policy
III. CUC Classification & Compensation Plan
IV. CUC Travel Policy
V. Legal Matters
VI. Hiring of External Legal Counsel
VII. Public Comments*
VIII. Executive Session**
IX. Announcement
X. Adjournment

/s/
JANICE A. TENORIO
Chairwoman

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, to consult with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

UFO-CNMI's Paskong Pinoy 2024 draws crowd

The United Filipino Organization-CNMI's Paskong Pinoy 2024 event at the Marianas Business Plaza grounds last Sunday attracted a large crowd.

Major sponsors of the event included IT&E CNMI, RNV Construction and its affiliates Homesmart Realty and Best Deal Merchandises, Hong Ye Construction, and the Marianas Business Plaza.

UFO-CNMI president Birhen Martinez would also like to thank the following for their support: KL Carr Enterprises, Mr. & Mrs. Lito and Malou Mendoza of L&M Enterprises, Tropex Garden & Traders Insurance, Geoffrey Melchor, Judy Mendieta, MarPac Inc., Kalayaan Inc., Hwang Jae Corp., Dave Electronics, Cepeda Rentals, Artman Trash, Crowne Plaza Resort, Saipan Shipping, Century Hotel, Triple J Saipan, Aliana's Fashion and Trends, JTM Snack Bar and BBQ Grill, Core Plus Construction, Mildred Ebuen, George Medina of 6JMS Sports Bar & Grill, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Marie Javier of SM, Marcelo Masilungan of SuperTech, Valentino Cruz of Macro Accounting Services, Saipan Nail Spa, McDonald's of Saipan, Coca-Cola Beverages-Micronesia, Saipan Ice & Water Company, WM Engineering Services, Hector Sevilla of HTS Construction, Bong Malasarte of Armatech, and Lito Espino.

UFO-CNMI also would like to thank the vendors of Paskong Pinoy 2024, namely 5 P's, Meraki Café, Chelu Shave Ice, JTM Snack Bar & BBQ Grill, Coney's BBQ, RJ Pizza, Lucy Food Vendor, Shave Ice, Yummy Food, Lanlan Tea House, and Natasha.

UFO

Paskong Pinoy 2024 On-The-Spot Christmas Tree Making contest first-place winner Marciano Raaga, left, and second-place winner Ruel Nava pose with their creations.

The group likewise would like to thank the following entertainers: Princess Nicole Rigua, Juliana Kai Ortiz, Roanne Palma, Reymond Negara, Alberto Albano, Cornerstone Christian Church, Project 5 of 9-Eleven Resto Bar, MHS Chorale & Glee Club, Mr. Gus Kaipat, Green Meadow School, Fitbeat Familia Group by Zin Joel, Sessionista Band, Nhemie Cayao, Profound Bandits, Ms. Jessel Antonio, Xtreme Fitness 670, and the Bayani Association Gandang Pinay Candidates 2025.

UFO-CNMI would also like to congratulate the winners of the On-The-Spot Christmas Tree Making contest—Marciano Raagas, who won first place with a $200 cash prize; and second place to Ruel Nava with $150 cash prize.

The kids drawing contest winners, meanwhile, were Arya Duarte, Sonny Sanchez Jr., Princess Sanchez, Kian B., Raya, and Athea Duarte who finished first to sixth place, respectively.

Angel Nica Voces, for her part, won $500 cash from the "Kwarta o Kahon" segement of the Paskong Pinoy 2024. The event was hosted by Annamae Adaza and Martinez.

The UFO-CNMI president also extended her gratitude to all members and volunteers of the Bayani Association, Bicol Association, Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects, Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, Northern Marianas Bartender Association, Samahang Ilocano, Santo Nino Prayer Group, and Tau Gamma Phi.

Please follow the UFO Facebook: United Filipino Organization-CNMI. ***(PR)***

UFO

Angel Nica Voces, fifth from left, won $500 cash in the "Kwarta o Kahon" segment of the Paskong Pinoy 2024.

UFO

The United Filipino Organization-CNMI members and officers pose for a group photo after the Paskong Pinoy 2024 event last Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
3815 Mistisa Ave., Dandan, Saipan
P.O. Box 505335
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 287-1973
Email: jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net

Attorney for Petitioner Antonio B. Cabrera

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:	]	Civil Action No.: 24-0211
DANIEL CONCEPCION CABRERA, Decedent.	]	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Antonio B. Cabrera for the Decree of Final Distribution will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the day of December 19, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at Room 220A , Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 6th day of December, 2024.

/S/
HON. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

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COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-25-010
FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025, 2026 & 2027

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) requires the services of a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm/Individual with knowledge, skill, and experience in auditing (1) financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards of the U.S. and; (2) federal awards programs in accordance with the Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget requisites

- Provide assistance to the CUC management with the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Ensure that the financial statements and auditor's reports also meet any specific requirements contained in agreements or other contractual requirements relative to financial statement presentation and the audits.
- Submit the draft financial statements and accompanying auditor's reports to CUC management no later than January 31st of each year, and issue the final reports no later than February 28th of each year.
- Provide 15 bound copies of the final financial statements and accompanying auditor's report
- Provide an electronic copy (e.g., .pdf format) of the final report to the CUC.

Auditors are responsible to review the 2025, 2026 & 2027 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets for each fiscal year.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-25-010, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2025, 2026 & 2027"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM** (ChST). Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 20, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Betty G. Terlaje, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address betty.terlaje@cucgov.org,, Rodolfo Urbano, CUC Chief Accountant via email, rodolfo.urbano@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

HANMI occupancy at 32% in Oct. 2024

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 31.6% average occupancy rate among 11 member hotels for October 2024, a 37% decrease compared to a year ago in October 2024.

A total of 20,557 of 65,020 available room nights sold during October 2024 compared to 31,603 of 63,248 available rooms sold in October 2023. The average room rate was $119.87 compared to $135.13 last October.

"As a destination, the Marianas is losing traction at this point, not recovering," said HANMI chair Dennis Seo. Jeju Air's night flights were reduced from twice daily to once from Oct. 26 to Dec. 7, 2024, due to annual flight maintenance.

Seo

"Visitor arrivals are still as low as they were in October 2023, every two out of three hotel rooms in HANMI is empty, and our average room rate also took a huge hit in October, dropping 13%," Seo said. "The U.S. dollar has shown extraordinary strength, intensifying competition with the premier beach resorts in Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines, as well as among hotels on Saipan, resulting in a continuous decrease in hotel sales prices. This indicates that the profitability of hotels is declining or that they are operating at a loss. The tourism economy has not bounced back for us."

October through mid-December is usually a low travel period, but Seo—who just returned from negotiations with Jeju Air in Korea—says even the Christmas and New Year holiday period is lackluster, and hotels are barely hanging on.

"The situation is dire," he said. "Last year, the holiday vacation was five weeks for students; this year it's only three. Tourism partners and the Marianas Visitors Authority have negotiated to have 20 charter flights between Saipan and Busan—Korea's second largest city—between Dec. 20 and Feb. 25, but nothing can replace a strong second or third source market."

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical report are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, Coral Ocean Resort, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Saipan World Resort, and Surfrider Resort Hotel.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. ***(PR)***

CONCERT

From page 1

Resort's ballroom.

"Actually, this is their (Marianas Beach Resort) first event. So, we are really excited that as soon we hear it and we have okay, we have to book here because we love this thing so much," said Eck.

The concert commenced at exactly 4:30pm with Gary Gilroy's "Jingle Parade" as an overture and reminded Eck of horse-drawn sleighs gliding through the snow, nutcrackers on parade, and Santa's elves busy at work building toys. It was followed with "The Eight Candles," "The Polar Express," and "Novena Rhapsody."

Alex Tudela conducted "The Polar Express" piece and he said that it's from the 2004 American computer-animated adventure film that tells the story of a young boy on Christmas Eve who sees a mysterious train bound to the North Pole stop outside his house and is invited by its conductor. He joins other children as they embark on a journey to visit Santa Claus.

The U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific Brass Quintet performed the music piece of "Joy to the World," "Cool Bells that Jingle," and "Pacific Fanfare" that is arranged by staff sergeant Colby Parker, who played the trombone. It was followed by "Sevivon," "Silent Night," and "Sleigh Ride."

Other members of the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific Brass are technical sergeant Daniel Thrower, senior airman Henry Gergen on trumpet, senior airman Jordan Miller on the french horn, senior airman Jeffrey Sharoff on trombone, and Parker.

Thrower said that the island (Saipan) has a holiday cheer.

"We just performed at the governor's tree lighting ceremony last night and wow, they were decked out. And the holiday spirit is definitely here on island, and we're so glad to be part of that," he said.

Saipan Pacific Winds Band and U.S. Air Force Pacific Brass together played a selection from "Wicked" and was concluded with a piece from "A Christmas Festival."

The concert lasted for an hour and a half and was concluded with a group photo.

Eck acknowledged Mount Carmel School, MHS Dolphin Concert Band, and photographer and videographer Scott Eck.

He also is encouraged the community to make donations or contributions that will be used for purchasing music scores and instrument maintenance.

WIFE

From page 1

DPS assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon T. Manacop shared with the media that Christa N. Toribiong was arrested at the Saipan airport in connection with criminal charges filed against her in Grayson County, Texas.

Toribiong had just deplaned a Jeju flight arriving from South Korea late Monday afternoon, and was about to enter Saipan when authorities discovered the active arrest warrant under charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, specifically a firearm. The arrest warrant had been put into effect on Aug. 29, 2024.

Toribiong was detained at the Department of Corrections, until yesterday afternoon. Up until that point, according to DPS, the Criminal Investigation Bureau had been working on detaining her further as a fugitive of justice. Around 2pm, and on behalf of DPS, Manacop informed media partners, "I've just been informed that Texas will not extradite outside the 50 U.S. states. She will be released." He said "The criminal charges were filed in Texas [and] she did not violate any laws here in the CNMI." As to her intentions, Manacop said that they were not able to find out the purpose of Toribiong's visit to the CNMI.

Toribiong, an attorney, is also known to be the current wife of former Palau president Johnson Toribiong. Allegedly Toribiong filed for divorce from the former president last month, but at the moment it is unclear if the pair is still together.

MACS

From page 1

Air Connection Services (which aims to bridge the gap in inter-island air service in the CNMI), may have to push back its plans to begin regular inter-island air service starting in December as the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority has yet to act on J&P Holdings' bid for a qualifying certificate.

Back in September, J&P Holdings put in an application for a qualifying certificate to essentially waive local taxes for a period of time to allow the company to invest millions in its venture to provide the CNMI with another regular inter-island air service.

J&P Holdings was shooting for a launch date of Dec. 18, but it seems plans could change with CEDA still in the deliberation stage of the application.

Yesterday, CEDA held a special board meeting to discuss the status of J&P Holdings' qualifying certificate application.

After a short executive session to discuss legal matters, the board called in J&P Holdings owner John Stewart to discuss the application.

Unfortunately, CEDA's Michael Sablan said that the evidence provided by J&P Holdings was lacking still and that CEDA wants a more detailed response to its inquires.

Tina Azarvand, J&P Holdings legal counsel, countered stating that she has responded thoroughly to CEDA's request with an extensive 15-page response. However, CEDA stated they wanted more details and recommended that MACS meet with CEDA management to discuss the matter.

Stewart obliged and despite the board's proposals to provide MACS with an extension (as the 90-day period given to act on the application for a qualifying certificate ends on Jan. 5, 2025), Stewart and Azarvand assured CEDA that they'd be able to provide all the information requested by today.

The board agreed and recessed and will reconvene on Friday to further discuss the outcome of yesterday's meeting.

ANIMAL

From page 1

Rights Day usually celebrate the day by taking action to promote animal welfare, raising awareness, and supporting organizations dedicated to protecting animals.

In light of the event, *Saipan Tribune* spoke with the Saipan Humane Society to address the often-overlooked topic of animal cruelty in the CNMI.

SHS executive director Guadalupe Attao shared it was pretty normal to them to get cases where an animal had endured some form of abuse, whether intentionally or unintentionally inflicted.

The biggest incident SHS had, she said, was a female dog named Harley.

"I guess our biggest one was Harley in February, I believe. She was on the frontpage of the paper. She was a part of an instance where three or four dogs in the same time all got shot by somebody or something. That month, we saw about three or four dogs hit by gunshots. Harley's sibling passed away. She had four pretty intense wounds that Ruby [Ma] and Lauren [Cabrera] were able to kind of, like, patch up. And she's alive and well now. She's still doing great. She's a sweet old lady."

Unfortunately, Harley's case wasn't the last one for the team to see. "We've seen a handful of BB bullets in cats and dogs, like in their ears, sometimes in their chest. And we've sometimes had to leave it in there or were able to take it out, assuming it was the right thing to do at that point. Today, we actually had a dog who had a gunshot wound on his back that Lauren was able to stitch up."

From neglect to gunshots to mutilation, they had seen abuse play out on even the most vulnerable victims—small puppies.

"We did have one really intense animal cruelty case where there were two mutilated puppies found on the beach," said Attao. "But it's one of those things, like, nobody sees what happened or who did it, so we can't prosecute."

"They just, like... butchered them," said SHS founder and president Lauren Cabrera. "We do see a lot of animal cruelty at the shelter, too, because Animal Control goes out and takes neglected dogs and injured dogs on the street and stuff. So, a lot of the time, we'll see dogs with collars ingrown and dogs with collars but are in terrible condition, all the time."

CNMI Public Law No. 21-31, which officially became a law in 2020, offers some protection for animals

It reads: "To prohibit cruelty and theft of animals; to provide penalties for such acts; and for other purposes."

But SHS shared that often times it's hard to always enforce the law.

"It's a fairly recent law and it is not legal to like intentionally neglect or mistreat an animal. But enforcing it is always a challenge because, like in the situation with the two puppies. We found these mutilated puppies on the beach. They were already dead, so of course they can't tell us what happened. Then nobody knows what's going on there, so it's hard to do detective work on those cases. And, you know, it's hard to get people to report things like this too, because it's a small island. Nobody wants to offend anybody. There are different ways of caring for animals, too. What is considered neglect in one culture might not be considered neglect in another culture. And so that's something that we always have to be mindful of too," said Cabrera.

Just as in human cases, neglect is also a form of abuse. Cabrera added that negligence is also a serious issue on island and very important to emphasize.

Whether it's abandonment without proper food, water, and shelter, failure to provide proper medical care, or starvation, even tying and leaving a dog outside without proper care, surveys show that animal neglect does not only impact the animal. Surveys show it can also negatively affect the community when it comes to road safety, overpopulation, disease transmission among other animals and humans alike. It is also speculated that animal neglect can possibly increase the likelihood of criminal violence, since violence against animals has been linked to a higher likelihood of criminal violence and domestic abuse.

SHS staff were in agreement with Cabrera, when she shared that the best way to combat and spread awareness on animal cruelty was to be a good example.

"Being an example is probably the best way, honestly. Making it more mainstream to treat a pet like a family member, or if it's a working animal, like a guard dog or a ranch dog, to at least be more of an example of taking good care of them instead of just letting them fend for themselves with fleas and ticks and stuff. Because, our actions often speak louder than words. And people already hear a lot of how they should better take care of their pet, but seeing it—that is so much different."

Guam Salvation Army serves Thanksgiving dinner at Chamorro Village

Passersby at Guam's Chamorro Village Pavillion this past Thanksgiving Day may have thought they were witnessing preparations for a major party or festival. Local artist Eric Borja sang and played upbeat music as people brought in trays of delicious food, arranging the food on long rows of serving tables set in a large, brightly decorated room.

» Hundreds served in celebration of Thanksgiving

The event was the Salvation Army's traditional Thanksgiving Day turkey dinner. Turkey, ham, potatoes, rice, dressing, pies and other traditional dishes were donated by individuals, businesses, churches and other service organizations from around Guam.

A total of 129 individual and group volunteers showed up to help with the event. Approximately 750 meals were served.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A total of 129 individual and group volunteers showed up to help and approximately 750 meals were served.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was a major sponsor for the dinner, providing a large portion of the food that was served.

Among supporters of the effort were volunteers from the Hilton Hotel, Bank of Guam, Native Pacific, University of Guam student body, students from Guam's high schools, Sen. Christ Barnett along with the Salvation Army advisory board, and Robert Libo-on, and the Salvation Army Corps.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was a major sponsor for the dinner, providing a large portion of the food that was served. "These funds come from the donations of our Church members," explained Brett Child who administers the Church's humanitarian efforts throughout Micronesia. "We give because we love the Savior, and we love our fellow brothers and sisters in the community."

The Thanksgiving Day gathering was not just to provide a meal to those who may not otherwise be able to have one, but to celebrate the Salvation Army's commitment to do God's work by bringing the resources of the community together to help meet the needs of the community's most vulnerable, the homeless, and those who simply need a helping hand.

"Volunteers are the heartbeat of the Salvation Army," said Major Eric Tumale who organized and directed the event. "This could not happen without the support of the community," he added, thanking the organizations and volunteers who came forward to make the dinner possible.

To open the festivities, a youth choir from Guam sang a traditional Chamorro song from the room's balcony, after which Tumale offered a prayer of thanks. Dinner was then served cafeteria style by the volunteers as a steady stream of people were served from 11am until 2pm.

In addition to providing food for the dinner, Latter-day Saint volunteers, including senior missionaries and members from the Barrigada Stake, joined others from throughout Guam in serving the food.

Diners enjoyed live music as they ate, and a youth dance team from the community also performed. Hundreds of meals were served to families and individuals. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Major Eric Tumale, who organized and directed the Salvation Army's traditional Thanksgiving Day turkey dinner, gives his welcome speech.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sister Martin serves attendees during the Salvation Army's traditional Thanksgiving Day turkey dinner.

House passes Radewagen-cosponsored Lahaina National Heritage Area Act

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) is welcoming House passage by a vote of 378-25 of the bipartisan Lahaina National Heritage Area Act, H.R. 8219, of which she is one of seven cosponsors.

The bill directs the National Park Service to assess the feasibility and suitability of designating Lahaina as the Lahaina National Heritage Area, under the National Heritage Areas Act. Lahaina is a historic whaling village that was a beautiful, thriving tourist and recreation destination before the massive, rapid, devastating wildfire in August 2023.

"In August 2023, I toured Lahaina with a bipartisan congressional delegation, and saw the heartbreaking total destruction firsthand," said Radewagen. "As Lahaina rebuilds and remembers, this bill would allow the National Park Service to be an ally in emphasizing Lahaina's heritage and providing long term support as the people of Maui continue taking on the immense challenges of restoring a flourishing community."

The bill does not create a National Park or take federal ownership. Instead, a National Heritage Area is a large lived-in community that includes private property, where historic, cultural and natural resources form nationally valued landscapes. To date, 62 National Heritage Areas have been designated in the United States, but Lahaina would be the first in Hawaii.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed the law creating the first one, which combined heritage conservation with economic development under community leadership. The NPS provides assistance and funding to support historic preservation, conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, education, and foster local pride and stewardship.

This bipartisan bill currently has seven cosponsors, including Radewagen of American Samoa. Led by Rep. Jill Tokuda (D-HI) with Rep. Ed Case (D-HI); Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA), the incoming chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus; Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-CNMI), Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA), and Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA.)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Congressional Delegation's first sight of Lahaina from the sky following the wildfire.

Opinion

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Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Lame-duck Biden administration should not intentionally sabotage the new Trump crew

During the presidential campaign, Democrats argued that the so-called "Deep State," the term many Republicans have given to overreaching federal bureaucrats, was a myth. But some of the protective efforts being made to forestall the incoming Donald Trump administration suggest otherwise.

The latest eyebrow-raiser, as reported by Bloomberg, is the deal made with the American Federation of Government Employees, a union representing some 42,000 Social Security Administration workers, that was signed by an exiting Biden administration commissioner, Martin O'Malley. Simply put, the bargain enshrined the ability to work some or all days at home, as per the workers' current deals, through 2029.

Whatever you may think of the new Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy effort to stem government waste, to be known as the "Department of Government Efficiency," or DOGE, here's an early window into how difficult their task is likely to be, given the forces favoring the status quo. Musk and Ramaswamy have said they plan to force more federal employees back into the office and let any attrition save the taxpayers money.

It's also revealing when it comes to one of the biggest problems with public-sector unions: the lack of motivation on the part of managers on the other side of the table to do anything but accede to their demands. We are, of course, seeing this play out in Chicago when it comes to Mayor Brandon Johnson, so far unwilling to buck or even push back on any of the absurd wants of the Chicago Teachers Union.

We're not against working from home, per se. Many jobs can be done from a computer in the kitchen, and we support employer flexibility, not least as a way to both reduce costs and retain talented employees. But jobs beholden to the public purse merit more scrutiny and are more ripe for abuse. And we think even Democrats should see the fundamental unfairness of hobbling a new, democratically elected administration in this way, for its entire duration. Imagine if the shoe were on the other foot; Democrats would be howling.

No doubt other unions are pushing for the same treatment.

Representing the desires of their workers is a union's job. Fine. But it's also the job of commissioners and the like to represent taxpayers' interests and the will of the American people. They just elected a president who campaigned on reining in excessive government spending. To bake in every cost for reasons as flimsy as in this particular case represents a kind of advance sabotage.

Surely those who take over the Social Security Administration deserve a modicum of flexibility. A chance to improve things that, yes, might include asking some folks to come into the office more. Or not. This is like an outgoing CEO preventing a successor from making any changes. For their entire tenure.

Outgoing Biden officials should not sign long-term deals deliberately targeting a new administration that has yet to have the chance to do anything. That's unethical and, frankly, undemocratic from a party that claims to be the great defender of democracy.

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Health-care spending is sinking the federal budget

By JUSTIN FOX
Bloomberg Opinion

Justin Fox is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering business, economics and other topics involving charts. A former editorial director of the Harvard Business Review, he is author of "The Myth of the Rational Market."

The $1.8 trillion federal budget deficit in the fiscal year that ended in September was the third biggest ever in dollar terms, trailing only the pandemic deficits of the 2020 and 2021 fiscal years. As a share of gross domestic product, a better gauge for historical comparisons, it was, at 6.4%, the biggest ever outside of a large war or global crisis.

Why was the deficit so big? One way to answer that is with historical statistics, which show that federal revenue in the 2024 fiscal year was about in line with the post-World War II average, while spending really wasn't.

This view, which implies that spending is the problem and the tax level about right, is not the only valid one. Compare U.S. government finances with those of the other affluent democracies in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and U.S. revenue (from federal, state and local taxes) ranks near the bottom as a percentage of GDP. Spending is below average, but not such a standout.

The historical view is essential, though, to understanding why spending has risen. And while there are many different ways to organize the cornucopia of historical U.S. fiscal data provided by the White House Office of Management and Budget, I haven't been able to find any that reveals quite as much about the current American predicament as simply separating health spending from everything else.

After huge but temporary increases during the pandemic, federal spending on items other than health programs was actually lower as a share of GDP in the 2023 fiscal year (the OMB's detailed breakdowns of 2024 spending won't be out until early next year) than the 1962-2023 average. If federal health spending accounted for the same share of GDP that it did in 1973, the budget would be balanced. If it were the same as in 2000, the deficit would be 2.5% of GDP, less than both the 1946-2023 and 1962-2023 averages.

Instead, in 2023 federal health spending was almost twice its 1962-2023 average, three times what it was in 1980 and 18 times what it was in 1962. The federal government now spends more than twice as much on health as on defense; as recently as 1988 it was less than half. These health outlays include things such as research grants and 2020's Operation Warp Speed to develop a Covid-19 vaccine, but the overwhelming majority of the money pays for health-care services. The largest share (44% in 2023) goes to Medicare, the health-care program for the elderly, but spending on that has barely grown as a share of GDP over the past decade. Most of the increase since 2013 has been accounted for by Medicaid, the federal-state health-care program for the poor, and health-insurance subsidies — in both cases driven in part by provisions of the 2010 Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare.

With Republicans in charge of Congress and the White House for the next two years, there are sure to be attempts to cut Medicaid spending and possibly an effort to scale back the ACA. As for Medicare, the 2024 Republican platform promised "NO CUTS," but there is a lot of GOP interest in accelerating its privatization by encouraging ever more recipients to sign up for Medicare Advantage plans run by insurers.

The latter effort seems highly unlikely to reduce spending given that Medicare Advantage currently costs taxpayers much more per enrollee than traditional Medicare. Whether any of the others would is an open question. The federal government spends so much on health care in large part because U.S. health care is so expensive—relative both to past decades here and to current experience in other wealthy nations—and without addressing that bigger problem, it's going to be hard to make much progress in cutting federal health-care spending.

Warren Buffett has referred to the U.S. health-care spending gap with other countries as "the tapeworm of American economic competitiveness"—a 5%-of-GDP tax on doing business in the U.S. I'm not sure that's the right way to look at it and make no claims to expertise in how to fix it. But I can report that the focus of health economists has been shifting away from fine-tuning the current system and toward starting over with "a basic bundle of valuable services that is publicly financed for all," as Katherine Baicker (a member of President George W. Bush's Council of Economic Advisers), Amitabh Chandra and Mark Shepard put it in the Journal of Economic Perspectives last year. That's what other affluent countries have, for the most part, and it seems to result in better outcomes at lower cost. Implementing it in the U.S. would "require a substantial increase in taxes," Baicker, Chandra and Shepard wrote, although this would be offset in part by reductions in private health-care spending.

Short of such a do-over—which certainly won't be coming in the next couple of years—there are other ways to slow health-care inflation. The ACA, while shifting more spending to the federal government, may have helped keep overall health-care spending in check over the past decade by prioritizing cost control and value-based (as opposed to fee-for-service) payment. Cost-control efforts by both the government and private insurers also slowed health-care cost increases in the 1990s.

Will we see anything like that during Donald Trump's second term? Maybe, although with Trump's designated spending-slashers, Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, not even mentioning health care in their "DOGE Plan to Reform Government" last month, I wouldn't get my hopes up.

On homelessness, liberal California and the ultraconservative Supreme Court largely agree

By JEREL EZELL
Los Angeles Times

Jerel Ezell is an assistant professor of community health sciences at UC Berkeley.

What does a small, solidly Republican city in Oregon have in common with California's largest liberal enclaves? All breathed a sigh of relief this year thanks to the far-right U.S. Supreme Court.

The court's conservative bloc ruled in favor of the city of Grants Pass, Ore., in June, overturning a key lower court ruling on homelessness and clearing the way for local governments to crack down on sleeping in public spaces regardless of the availability of housing or shelter. California's response to the ruling has become a vivid reminder of not just the intractability of the homelessness epidemic but also the tension between national liberal politics and local policy in Democratic-dominated states and cities.

Some 186,000 people across California lack consistent shelter. Roughly 84% of the state's voters believe homelessness is a "very serious" problem, a Quinnipiac University poll found, and Democrats and Republicans were in similarly broad agreement on that assessment, at 81% and 85%, respectively. In that light, it's not surprising that California officials have wasted no time since Grants Pass in implementing their preferred "solution" to the homelessness problem.

From San Diego to San Francisco, state and local workers began disassembling makeshift shelters and camps and displacing the homeless people living in them. Within days, entire blocks were remade across the state. Residents rallied to social media platforms such as Reddit and Nextdoor to exchange strategies for getting homeless encampments removed from their own neighborhoods.

Other California residents have taken the Supreme Court's ruling and Democratic officials' exuberant co-sign as further evidence of the nation's growing disdain for society's most marginalized. Reports spread of homeless people being ejected from campsites with little or no warning, their pets taken away and medications lost, among other indignities.

The American Civil Liberties Union and other advocacy groups have condemned the Grants Pass ruling. The chief executive of the National Alliance to End Homelessness said it set a "dangerous precedent." But the precedent set by California Democrats has arguably been far more dangerous.

During the initial waves of the Golden State's housing crisis, in the late 1970s, Democratic politicians were reluctant to be seen as overtly antagonistic to the state's homeless people, many of them veterans of the nation's wars in Vietnam and Korea. But as the homeless population has grown and diversified, officials have faced deepening NIMBY sentiment not just in California's well-heeled liberal cities but also in Democratic-leaning working-class communities that increasingly experience the highest rates of homelessness and related problems such as loitering and blight. As a result, anti-homeless policies have become more politically appealing despite being painfully at odds with inclusivity and other virtues Democrats signal on the national stage.

Addressing the housing crisis has been a quintessential and enduring social justice cause for Democrats, encompassing themes that tend to unify the party, including health, economic and racial equity. According to one survey, 82% of homeless adults in California reported having experienced a serious mental health condition, and 65% had used illicit drugs at some point. The state's Black people are disproportionately affected by homelessness: Despite making up only about 5% of California's total population, they represent roughly 25% of its homeless people. Such statistics helped liberals frame homelessness as a product of Republican policies weakening social services and promoting unchecked capitalism.

But that view has lost support as homelessness has become more dramatic and visible over the last decade. In some of California's liberal enclaves, homeless encampments have become full-blown tent cities. Scenes of squalor, drug use and petty crime have spawned a subculture of gonzo-style documentary videos racking up hundreds of thousands of views on YouTube. San Francisco and Los Angeles have the most prominent crises, inviting scrutiny of the latter city's readiness to host the 2028 Olympics.

Democrats' conundrum is whether authorities should roust, fine and imprison people residing in public spaces in the interest of answering the broader community's quality-of-life concerns. Critics have argued that such criminalization is a cruel distraction and that more affordable housing is the only way to meaningfully address the crisis.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and his predecessor, Jerry Brown, devoted billions of dollars to homelessness prevention and affordable housing even as the homeless population generally continued to grow. Newsom was quick to seize on the conservative Supreme Court's permission to put punishment ahead of housing, warning cities that if they don't remove encampments, they risk losing state funding. San Francisco Mayor London Breed, who just lost a reelection bid partly because of concerns about homelessness, likewise promised to be "very aggressive" in removing encampments. Never mind that those displaced by the state's homeless sweeps often end up occupying another nearby space and returning at a later date.

So how did we get here? California's ruling Democrats have tried to have it all ways, largely cultivating and tolerating deeply bureaucratic housing development standards while amplifying a booming tech industry populated by employees willing to pay top dollar for homes, dramatically boosting prices. And although Newsom and others have heralded emergency housing and other measures to answer the crisis, the total capacity is far short of the unhoused population. That's partly because new facilities are often rebuffed by cities such as the L.A. suburb of Norwalk, which recently enacted a moratorium on homeless shelters.

Reducing and preventing homelessness, whatever the underlying motivations, is one of the few civic concerns that bind the political parties together in an age of stark polarization. Beyond the obvious moral merits of the cause, it could provide a road map to arrive at bipartisan solutions for other challenges facing the state and country. Unfortunately, the consensus on homelessness is coalescing around a prescription with little chance of long-term success.

The Supreme Court should stand up for transgender teens

By LISA JARVIS
Bloomberg Opinion

Lisa Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, she was executive editor of Chemical & Engineering News.

The U.S. Supreme Court's conservative majority appears likely to guarantee a bleak future for the nation's transgender adolescents—one where politically motivated lawmakers, not parents and physicians, are allowed to make health care decisions for them.

The case before the court, *United States v. Skrmetti*, originated with three transgender teenagers in Tennessee and their families, who sued the state over its ban on gender-affirming care for minors. The law prohibits doctors from prescribing puberty blockers and hormones to adolescents experiencing gender dysphoria. Based on the tone of the questions and comments during a hearing Wednesday, the court, with a 6-3 conservative majority, seems inclined to uphold the ban.

The decision is likely to have far-reaching consequences, affecting 23 other states that have passed laws banning gender-affirming care for minors in the past three years. And it could embolden conservative politicians, some of whom see transgender rights as an easy way to rile their base, to push their agendas even further. Advocates fear the case could lead to similar laws for transgender adults.

That outcome would be devastating for the estimated 1.6 million transgender Americans. These treatments are life-affirming, allowing people to inhabit a body that matches their identity. For some, they are lifesaving.

The Biden administration joined the lawsuit, arguing the ban violates the Constitution. Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, representing the administration, told the court that the law discriminates against adolescents based on sex. The drugs can still be prescribed for adolescents who aren't transgender and are used for other medical purposes.

Tennessee Solicitor General Matthew Rice argued that the law protects children from what the state believes are harmful treatments and irreversible changes. He contended that some of these young people would change their minds and that hormone therapy could compromise their fertility.

The court's conservatives seemed to buy that argument, even though it relied on medical claims presented without nuance or were outright incorrect. Justices Samuel Alito and Brett Kavanaugh repeatedly referred to the evolving attitudes on the use of puberty blockers and hormones in Europe.

"It strikes me as a pretty heavy yellow light, if not red light, for this court to come in, the nine of us, and to constitutionalize the whole area, when … countries that have been at the forefront of this are pumping the brakes on this kind of treatment," Kavanaugh said.

It's true that several countries, most prominently the U.K. and Sweden, recently tightened guidelines on the use of puberty blockers and hormones. But none of these countries have banned gender-affirming treatment for adolescents. (And if the judges want to point to Europe as an example, a medical group in France this week released the first national guidelines for treating transgender adolescents — guidelines that support the use of puberty blockers and hormone therapy.)

Alito and Kavanaugh also focused on what Tennessee claims is a sizable portion of people — the figure cited was 85% — who later regret transitioning. Studies have placed that number at closer to 1%, and puberty blockers, which are reversible, are specifically intended to give adolescents time to explore their gender identity.

The justices were also hung up on the idea that these drugs are being used "off-label," meaning the FDA has not approved them to treat gender dysphoria. The implication, of course, was that that makes them dangerous. Many pediatric medicines are prescribed off-label; the solution is to study them in children, not ban them.

Because the justices are being asked to consider whether the law discriminates based on sex, their ruling could, in theory, open the door to similar laws banning gender-affirming therapy for adults. In a tense exchange between Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Rice, the justice asked if upholding the ban might encourage lawmakers to target gender-affirming treatment for adults. Rice could not deny that possibility.

"Your Honor, we think that if we're assuming a similarly worded statute, that there would still not be a sex- or a transgender-based classification," Rice said.

"So, you're licensing states to deprive grown adults of the choice of which sex to adopt?" Sotomayor asked.

When Rice argued there were other means to claw back such laws if enacted, Sotomayor responded, "That's quite an interesting way to protect a population."

If the ban is upheld, the decision would likely solidify similar laws under litigation in other states, affecting nearly 40% of transgender youth in the US. The prospect of broader bans in an increasingly hostile political environment (fomented by President-elect Donald Trump, whose campaign spent a reported $215 million on ads stoking anti-transgender fears) is exacting a huge mental toll on transgender youth and their families. One study found that suicide attempts among transgender teens increased up to 72% after states passed bills targeting them. A pediatric endocrinologist working in a state with a ban told me his patients "feel they are being pursued even into adulthood, that there's no safe place for them."

As with the proliferation of abortion bans, these laws are widening the divide between the haves and have-nots, where a person's ability to access vital health care legally is based on their ZIP Code rather than what they and their doctor decide is best. Doctors who treat transgender adolescents tell me some of their patients' families are making the difficult decision to move to ban-free states or even other countries. Others are forced to travel — sometimes several states away—to access care. And many are simply forgoing treatment. That means not starting needed medication or stopping treatment and undergoing a painful transition back into a body that doesn't match their identity.

Putting families in these difficult, even dangerous situations does not seem like protecting children to me.

On a call with media earlier this week, Brian Williams, the father of LW, one of the adolescents involved in the suit, outlined the stakes for his daughter and so many other transgender teens. "Tennessee's ban on gender-affirming medical care is an active threat to the future my daughter deserves," he said.

At the end of the day, these families simply ask for basic humanity.

"We are not expecting anyone to understand everything about our family or the needs of transgender young people like LW," Williams said. "What we are asking for is for her freedom to be herself without fear."

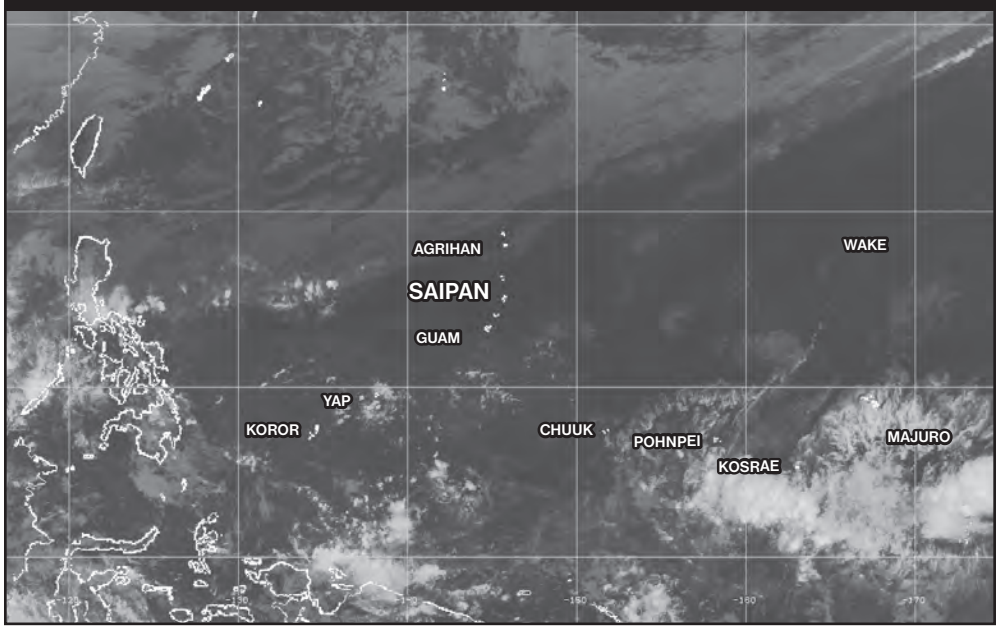
Isn't that what all parents want? Unfortunately, the Supreme Court's majority appears to be headed in a direction that will rob millions of kids of that fundamental right.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Breezy. Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of light showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Breezy. Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers.	Breezy. Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers.	Breezy. Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers.
88° 78°	88° 78°	86° 78°	87° 78°	86° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:10 AM TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A steady dry trade-wind pattern continues, keeping the potential for showers minimal. Gentle to moderate winds will continue through midweek, possibly becoming breezy later this week. Combined of seas of 5 to 7 feet will increase slightly as the secondary north swell builds.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Fair	88° / 77°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:00 AM	2:06 PM
Thursday	-	2:58 AM	2:51 PM
Friday	-	4:00 AM	3:40 PM
Saturday	-	5:04 AM	4:35 PM
Sunday	-	6:10 AM	5:34 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	72° / 61°
Beijing	Fair	45° / 22°
Hong Kong	Fair	69° / 63°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	79° / 69°
London	Partly Cloudy	43° / 39°
Los Angeles	Sunny	68° / 49°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	86° / 63°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 72°
New York	Cloudy	52° / 41°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	43° / 37°
Busan	Sunny	49° / 33°
Rome	Sunny	50° / 30°
Salem	Showers	63° / 52°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 47°
Seoul	Sunny	43° / 20°
Tokyo	Fair	56° / 41°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	57° / 42°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:05 AM	High Tide	1.30
9:32 AM	Low Tide	0.59
3:46 PM	High Tide	1.87
11:00 PM	Low Tide	-0.06

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	1:20PM	4:00PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3218/2305	2:45AM	10:20PM	Daily via Incheon
UA076/183 Guam	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily
7C3218	2:45AM	6:45AM	Daily from Dec 8
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3552	3:55AM	7:20AM	3, 6 from Dec 25

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	3:05AM	5:55AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	10:05PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA156	00:40AM	6:25AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:40AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA156	00:40AM	8:45AM	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3407	11:20PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily
7C3217	8:10PM	1:40AM+1	Daily from Dec 8

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3551	9:25PM	2:50AM+1	2, 5 from Dec 25

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Docomo Pacific, Carabao Brewing introduce Prima's Pint

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific, the regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, proudly announces a special collaboration with local business, Carabao Brewing, to introduce Prima's Pint, a limited-edition brown ale crafted to celebrate the holiday season and highlight the power of community and collaboration. This exclusive brew is now available on tap at Carabao Brewing while supplies last.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

From left, Tito Castro, EVP Enterprise Business Unit, Docomo Pacific; Eloisa Hudson, director of Marketing, Docomo Pacific; Christine Baleto, president and CEO, Docomo Pacific; Anna and Ben Johnson, owners of Carabao Brewing.

Docomo Pacific & Carabao Brewing debut their limited-edition beer collaboration.

Prima's Pint is a limited-edition brown ale crafted to celebrate the holiday season.

A toast to innovation and community

Prima's Pint is a handcrafted brown ale inspired by the vibrant traditions and strong bonds that define our island. The name "Prima," meaning "cousin" in Chamorro, symbolizes shared connections.

"At Docomo Pacific, we're driven by the vision of 'Tomorrow's Islands, Today,'" said Christine Baleto, president and CEO of Docomo Pacific. "This collaboration with Carabao Brewing is a perfect reflection of that spirit of innovation and community. This collaboration celebrates the power of working together to create something meaningful and enduring for our island community."

Launch event highlights

To commemorate the release, Docomo Pacific and Carabao Brewing hosted an exclusive launch party on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, at Carabao Brewing. The event brought together business and community leaders, including Carabao Brewing owners Anna and Ben Johnson and Docomo Pacific's leadership team—Baleto, executive vice president Tito Castro, and director of Marketing Eloisa Hudson.

"Prima's Pint isn't just a beer; it's a tribute to Guam's values of optimism, resilience, and innovation," said Hudson. "We're honored to collaborate with Carabao Brewing to bring this vision to life during the holiday season."

Guests had the opportunity to sample Prima's Pint and learn about the inspiration behind its creation. The collectible cans, designed with a striking label featuring a confident, forward-looking woman inspired by Baleto, serve as keepsakes exclusively for Docomo Pacific customers celebrating this unique collaboration.

A partnership built on passion and craftsmanship

"This partnership with Docomo Pacific has been an incredible journey. Prima's Pint embodies our shared vision for community and craftsmanship, and we're thrilled to share it with the island," said Ben Johnson, brewmaster and co-owner of Carabao Brewing

Raise a glass to Prima's Pint

Stop by Carabao Brewing this holiday season to enjoy Prima's Pint—a toast to connection, collaboration, and the holiday spirit. Supplies are limited, so don't miss your chance to savor this exclusive brew.

About Docomo Pacific

Docomo Pacific, the largest quad-play provider in the Marianas, is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT DOCOMO, Japan's leading mobile operator. We offer award-winning Mobile, Online, Entertainment, and Telephone services, including multi-gig Fiber Internet speeds of up to 5 Gig symmetrical, 5G LTE, and the dTV+ app. Our enterprise solutions also include managed services, FirstNet for first responders, MaxTrack Fleet Tracking, Unified Communications 365, and various carrier services. Serving residential, enterprise, government, military, and first responders, we are committed to making life "Better Together." Learn more at www.docomopacific.com.

About Carabao Brewing

Carabao Brewing was founded in 2018 by Ben and Anna Johnson, inspired by their love for Guam after visiting the island in 2017. They launched their brewery in Hagåtña after remodeling the historic Mermaid Tavern and Grill. Specializing in crafting diverse beer styles, Carabao Brewing emphasizes quality, innovation, and a welcoming island spirit. ***(PR)***

Suspect in the killing of UnitedHealthcare's CEO shook when police confronted him, officers say

ALTOONA, Pa. (AP)—Police arrested a suspect Monday in the brazen Manhattan killing of UnitedHealthcare's CEO after a quick-thinking McDonald's customer in Pennsylvania spotted a man who officers found with a gun, mask and writings linking him to the ambush.

The chance sighting at the restaurant in Altoona led to a dramatic break in a challenging but fast-moving investigation that captivated the public in the five days since the shooting that shook the business world.

Luigi Nicholas Mangione, a 26-year-old Ivy League graduate from a prominent Maryland real estate family, had a gun believed to be the one used in last Wednesday's shooting of Brian Thompson, as well as writings suggesting anger with corporate America, police said.

He was charged with possession of an unlicensed firearm, forgery and providing false identification to police. Authorities said they expected murder charges to be filed in New York in the coming days.

Mangione was sitting in the rear of the McDonald's wearing a blue medical mask and looking at a laptop computer, court documents said. A customer saw him and an employee called 911, said Kaz Daughtry, an NYPD deputy commissioner.

Altoona Police Officer Tyler Frye said he and his partner recognized the suspect immediately when he pulled down his mask. "We just didn't think twice about it. We knew that was our guy," he said.

When one of the officers asked if he'd been to New York recently, he "became quiet and started to shake," according to a criminal complaint based on their accounts of the arrest.

In his backpack, police found a black, 3D-printed pistol and a 3D-printed black silencer, the complaint said. The pistol had a metal slide and plastic handle with a metal threaded barrel. He was taken into custody at about 9:15 a.m., police said.

Mangione had clothing and a mask similar to those worn by the shooter and a fraudulent New Jersey ID matching one the suspect used to check into a New York City hostel before the shooting, NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch said.

NYPD Chief of Detectives Joseph Kenny said Mangione was born and raised in Maryland, has ties to San Francisco and a last known address in Honolulu.

"Our family is shocked and devastated by Luigi's arrest," Mangione's family said in a statement posted on social media late Monday by his cousin, Maryland lawmaker Nino Mangione. "We offer our prayers to the family of Brian Thompson and we ask people to pray for all involved."

Mangione was arraigned and ordered held without bail during a brief court hearing. Asked if he needed a public defender, he asked if he could "answer that at a future date." He eventually will be extradited to New York to face charges in connection with Thompson's death, Kenny said.

Police found a three-page document with writings suggesting that Mangione had "ill will toward corporate America," Kenny said.

The handwritten document "speaks to both his motivation and mindset," Tisch said.

Altoona Deputy Chief of Police Derek Swope would not characterize the writings except to say they were voluminous.

"They were very detailed, and everything we have is going to be turned over to NYPD," he told The Associated Press.

Mangione had a ghost gun, a type of weapon that can be assembled at home from parts without a serial number, making them difficult to trace, investigators said.

He also had a passport and $10,000 in cash — $2,000 of it in foreign currency, the local prosecutor said. Mangione, who said Hawaii was his most recent address, disputed the amount.

Thompson, 50, was killed last Wednesday as he walked alone to a hotel, where UnitedHealthcare's parent company, UnitedHealth Group, was holding its annual investor conference, police said.

UnitedHealth Group thanked law enforcement in a statement. "Our hope is that today's apprehension brings some relief to Brian's family, friends, colleagues and the many others affected by this unspeakable tragedy," a company spokesperson said.

The shooting shook U.S. businesses and the health insurance industry in particular, causing companies to rethink security plans and delete photos of executives from their websites.

The shooter appeared to be "lying in wait for several minutes" before approaching the executive from behind and opening fire, police said.

Mangione attended an elite Baltimore prep school, graduating as valedictorian in 2016, according to the school's website. He went on to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in computer science in 2020 from the University of Pennsylvania, a school spokesperson said.

One of his cousins is a Maryland state legislator and his family bought a country club north of Baltimore in the 1980s. On Monday, police blocked off an entrance to the property, which public records link to the suspect's parents. A swarm of reporters and photographers gathered outside.

Nation

Trump vows to stop birthright citizenship

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump has promised to end birthright citizenship as soon as he gets into office to make good on campaign promises aiming to restrict immigration and redefining what it means to be American.

But any efforts to halt the policy would face steep legal hurdles.

» What is it and could he do it?

Birthright citizenship means anyone born in the United States automatically becomes an American citizen. It's been in place for decades and applies to children born to someone in the country illegally or in the U.S. on a tourist or student visa who plans to return to their home country.

It's not the practice of every country, and Trump and his supporters have argued that the system is being abused and that there should be tougher standards for becoming an American citizen.

But others say this is a right enshrined in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, it would be extremely difficult to overturn and even if it's possible, it's a bad idea.

Here's a look at birthright citizenship, what Trump has said about it and the prospects for ending it:

What Trump has said about birthright citizenship

During an interview Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" Trump said he "absolutely" planned to halt birthright citizenship once in office.

"We're going to end that because it's ridiculous," he said.

Trump and other opponents of birthright citizenship have argued that it creates an incentive for people to come to the U.S. illegally or take part in "birth tourism," in which pregnant women enter the U.S. specifically to give birth so their children can have citizenship before returning to their home countries.

"Simply crossing the border and having a child should not entitle anyone to citizenship," said Eric Ruark, director of research for NumbersUSA, which argues for reducing immigration. The organization supports changes that would require at least one parent to be a permanent legal resident or a U.S. citizen for their children to automatically get citizenship.

Others have argued that ending birthright citizenship would profoundly damage the country.

"One of our big benefits is that people born here are citizens, are not an illegal underclass. There's better assimilation and integration of immigrants and their children because of birthright citizenship," said Alex Nowrasteh, vice president for economic and social policy studies at the pro-immigration Cato Institute.

In 2019, the Migration Policy Institute estimated that 5.5 million children under age 18 lived with at least one parent in the country illegally in 2019, representing 7% of the U.S. child population. The vast majority of those children were U.S. citizens.

The nonpartisan think tank said during Trump's campaign for president in 2015 that the number of people in the country illegally would "balloon" if birthright citizenship were repealed, creating "a self-perpetuating class that would be excluded from social membership for generations."

What does the law say?

In the aftermath of the Civil War, Congress ratified the 14th Amendment in July 1868. That amendment assured citizenship for all, including Black people.

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside," the 14th Amendment says. "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States."

But the 14th Amendment didn't always translate to everyone being afforded birthright citizenship. For example, it wasn't until 1924 that Congress finally granted citizenship to all Native Americans born in the U.S.

A key case in the history of birthright citizenship came in 1898, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Wong Kim Ark, born in San Francisco to Chinese immigrants, was a U.S. citizen because he was born in the states. The federal government had tried to deny him reentry into the county after a trip abroad on grounds he wasn't a citizen under the Chinese Exclusion Act.

But some have argued that the 1898 case clearly applied to children born of parents who are both legal immigrants to America but that it's less clear whether it applies to children born to parents without legal status or, for example, who come for a short-term like a tourist visa.

"That is the leading case on this. In fact, it's the only case on this," said Andrew Arthur, a fellow at the Center for Immigration Studies, which supports immigration restrictions. "It's a lot more of an open legal question than most people think."

Some proponents of immigration restrictions have argued the words "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" in the 14th Amendment allows the U.S. to deny citizenship to babies born to those in the country illegally. Trump himself used that language in his 2023 announcement that he would aim to end birthright citizenship if reelected.

So what could Trump do and would it be successful?

Trump wasn't clear in his Sunday interview how he aims to end birthright citizenship.

Asked how he could get around the 14th Amendment with an executive action, Trump said: "Well, we're going to have to get it changed. We'll maybe have to go back to the people. But we have to end it." Pressed further on whether he'd use an executive order, Trump said "if we can, through executive action."

He gave a lot more details in a 2023 post on his campaign website. In it, he said he would issue an executive order the first day of his presidency, making it clear that federal agencies "require that at least one parent be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident for their future children to become automatic U.S. citizens."

Trump wrote that the executive order would make clear that children of people in the U.S. illegally "should not be issued passports, Social Security numbers, or be eligible for certain taxpayer funded welfare benefits."

This would almost certainly end up in litigation.

Nowrasteh from the Cato Institute said the law is clear that birthright citizenship can't be ended by executive order but that Trump may be inclined to take a shot anyway through the courts.

World

AS IT ADVANCES ON SYRIAN BUFFER ZONE

Israel sees peril and opportunity

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—The dramatic downfall of Syrian President Bashar Assad presents possible danger, and an opening, for neighboring Israel.

After fighting wars on multiple fronts for months, Israel is now concerned that unrest in Syria could spill over into its territory. Israel also views the end of the Assad regime as a chance to disrupt Iran's ability to smuggle weapons through Syria to the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

The Israeli military over the weekend began seizing control of a demilitarized buffer zone in Syria created as part of a 1974 ceasefire between the countries. It said the move was temporary and meant to secure its border.

But the incursion sparked condemnation, with critics accusing Israel of violating the ceasefire and possibly exploiting the chaos in Syria for a land grab. Israel still controls the Golan Heights that it captured from Syria during the 1967 Mideast war and later annexed—a move not recognized by most of the international community.

Here's a look at recent developments along the Syrian frontier.

Where are the Israeli troops?

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Israeli forces were moving to control a roughly 400-square-kilometer (155-square-mile) demilitarized buffer zone in Syrian territory. The buffer zone between Syria and the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights was created by the U.N. after the 1973 Mideast war. A U.N. force of about 1,100 troops has patrolled the area since then.

AP

Israeli soldiers stand next to armored vehicles parked near the so-called Alpha Line that separates the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights from Syria, in the town of Majdal Shams, Monday, Dec. 9, 2024.

On a visit Sunday to a Golan Heights hilltop overlooking Syria, Netanyahu said that because Syrian troops had abandoned their positions, Israel's move into the buffer zone was necessary as a "temporary defensive position."

"The peacekeepers at (the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, or UNDOF) informed the Israeli counterparts that these actions would constitute a violation of the 1974 disengagement agreement, that there should be no military forces or activities in the area of separation," said U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric. He added that the buffer zone was calm and UNDOF peacekeepers remained in their position. The Security Council is scheduled to meet for special consultations called by Russia to discuss the buffer zone issue.

The rebels who ousted Assad and now control much of Syria are led by a former senior al-Qaida militant, although he severed ties with the extremist group years ago and has promised representative government and religious tolerance.

On Monday evening, Netanyahu said Assad's fall is the "direct result of the heavy blows we landed on Hamas, on Hezbollah and on Iran." He added that Israel would occupy the summit of Mount Hermon, which is within the buffer zone on the Syria-Lebanon border, and at 2,814 meters (9,232 feet) is the highest peak in the eastern Mediterranean coast.

PH volcano eruption sends villagers fleeing for safety

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A plume of hot ash and gases up to 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) high forced residents to seek shelter after a volcano in the Philippines erupted on Monday.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the latest explosion of Mount Kanlaon, on central Negros island, but authorities shut schools and imposed a nighttime curfew after ash falling in several villages clouded the the visibility of motorists and sparked health concerns.

"It sounded like a cannon," Mayor Jose Chubasco Cardenas of Canlaon city, which lies southeast of the volcano, told The Associated Press by telephone. "There have been quiet eruptions before, but this was one very loud."

Disaster-response officials raised the danger level around Kanlaon due to "a greater risk of hazardous volcanic activity" and ordered villagers within a 6-kilometer (3.7-mile) radius of the crater to be evacuated.

About 100 people had fled to emergency shelters in Canlaon by nightfall after the midafternoon volcanic eruption, Cardenas said. The number of displaced people could reach more than 2,000 due to stronger prospects of more eruption, he added.

The Philippines' Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the eruption had caused a pyroclastic density current — a superhot stream of ash, debris and rocks that can incinerate anything in its path.

The alert level around Kanlaon is at the third-highest of a five-step warning system, indicating "magmatic eruption has begun that may progress to further explosive eruptions."

The 2,435-meter (7,988-foot) volcano, one of the country's 24 most-active volcanoes, last erupted in June sending hundreds of villagers to emergency shelters.

Located in the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," a region prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, the Philippines is also lashed by about 20 typhoons and storms a year and is among the countries most prone to natural disasters.

Life & Style

Golden Globes 2025: Who's nominated, hosting, ceremony honorees, what they'll eat and more

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The Golden Globes will return in January with major star appeal thanks to a slew of big-name nominees, including Zendaya, Timothée Chalamet, Angelina Jolie, Daniel Craig, Denzel Washington, Ariana Grande and more.

Nominations for the 82nd awards ceremony were announced Monday. The show will be televised by CBS and streamed on Paramount+ on Jan. 5.

Here's key things to know about the ceremony:

AP

This image released by Universal Pictures shows Cynthia Erivo, left, and Ariana Grande, with director Jon M. Chu, right, on the set of the film "Wicked."

Who's hosting the Golden Globes?

Comedian and actor Nikki Glaser was chosen to host next year's ceremony.

Glaser has made a name for herself as a riotously sharp wit, especially at roasts, including recently for Tom Brady, who she needled for his complex love life and his one-time advocacy of crypto. She earned an Emmy nomination for her latest special, "Someday You'll Die" for HBO, which dealt with everything from offering to pay for her friends' abortions to her darkest porn habits.

Glaser cited Tina Fey, Amy Poehler and Ricky Gervais as inspirations. She'll follow last year's host Jo Koy, who was slammed by critics for a fumbled opening monologue and a rushed pace throughout.

Who's nominated for Golden Globes this year?

Jacques Audiard's audacious musical "Emilia Pérez," about a Mexican drug lord who undergoes gender affirming surgery, leads all nominees with 10.

That put it ahead of other contenders like the musical smash "Wicked," the papal thriller "Conclave" and the postwar epic "The Brutalist."

"The Apprentice," about Donald Trump as a young man, also landed nominations for its two central performances, by Sebastian Stan as Trump and Jeremy Strong as Roy Cohn.

"The Bear" leads all television nominees with five.

With his 11th nomination, Denzel Washington is the most-nominated Black performer at the Globes.

Steve Martin is nominated for the four straight year in the best television actor in a musical or comedy series category for "Only Murders in the Building." The nomination marks his ninth overall and could be his first-ever Globes win.

There are 26 first-time nominees including Grande, Dakota Fanning, Glaser, Seth Meyers, Zoe Saldaña and Pamela Anderson—who surprisingly earned a nod for "The Last Showgirl."

The embattled Globes, which are no longer presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, are still in comeback mode after years of scandal and organizational upheaval.

You can see a full list of nominees here: https://apnews.com/hub/golden-globe-awards

What are the Golden Globes?

The Globes are the first major ceremony of awards season. They're not exactly an Oscar bellwether, but they're known for a few things: being a boozy, sometimes irreverent party and a glamourous gathering of the biggest television and film stars.

A Globes win can help build momentum for a movie or actor's Oscar campaign. As the first televised awards show of the year, they get ahead of similar ceremonies like the Screen Actors Guild and Critics Choice Awards and are nearly two months before the Oscars, which this year will be held on March 2.

Double nominees please

Stan, Kate Winslet and Selena Gomez are all double nominees.

Gomez is up for both best performance by a female actor in a supporting role for "Emilia Pérez" and best performance by a female actor in a television musical or comedy series for "Only Murders in the Building."

Winslet is nominated for both best performance by a female actor in a drama for "Lee" and best performance by a female actor in a limited anthology series for television for "The Regime."

Stan earned a nod for both best performance by a male actor in a drama for "The Apprentice" and best performance by a male actor in a musical or comedy for "A Different Man."

Who will receive the Golden Globes' Cecil B. DeMille award?

Viola Davis will be honored with the Cecil B. DeMille Award for her decorated career, starring in an array of powerful roles from "Fences" to "The Woman King."

The actor has won praise for a string of compelling characters in films such as "The Help," "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" and "Doubt," while captivating TV audiences through the legal thriller drama "How to Get Away with Murder."

The DeMille Award has been bestowed to 69 of Hollywood's greatest talents. Past recipients include Tom Hanks, Jeff Bridges, Oprah Winfrey, Morgan Freeman, Meryl Streep, Barbra Streisand and Sidney Poitier.

Who's the next Carol Burnett award honoree?

The Golden Globes are raising a glass to former "Cheers" star Ted Danson by naming him the Carol Burnett Award honoree.

Danson, a three-time Globes winner, has been a fixture on TV since he broke out as Boston bartender Sam Malone on NBC's comedy "Cheers." His other credits include "The Good Place," "Mr. Mayor," "Fargo," "CSI" and "CSI: Cyber," "Damages" and "Becker."

Danson currently stars in Netflix's "A Man on the Inside," which earned his first nomination since 2008 and 13th overall.

The Carol Burnett Award was inaugurated in 2019 and is presented to an honoree who has "made outstanding contributions to television on or off screen."

Past recipients include Norman Lear, Ryan Murphy and Ellen DeGeneres. The first was Burnett herself.

Danson and Viola Davis will be praised at a gala dinner Jan. 3 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. For the first time, the Globes will host a separate event dedicated to both awards.

After three years together, truth of early days comes out

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my partner for three years. We met on a dating site but were not able to get together often because of prior plans and vacations we both had scheduled. I have now found out that his prior obligations were with another woman he was seeing.

Before we became intimate, which was six weeks into our relationship, I asked if he was dating anyone else. He said no. I asked again another time, and he said no. Even though we weren't able to see each other often, I believed we were exclusive. Now I know he was seeing her for two months before we met and for three months after. He was intimate with her also. Abby, they took a 10-day trip together two months after we met. He says he broke up with her shortly after the trip.

I feel confident that he has been faithful since then. I found all of this out by looking through his old emails. Otherwise, he would have kept lying about it. I had asked him several times if he went on the trip alone, and he always said he did. I fell in love with him, and we have been living together for a year. I am having a difficult time forgiving him and don't even know if I should.

DEFLATED IN ARIZONA

DEAR DEFLATED: Your boyfriend lied to you consistently about the fact that he was involved with another woman. If you hadn't looked at his old emails, you still wouldn't know the person you have been living with. Have you been checked for STDs? If you haven't been, contact your doctor and make an appointment. You say you are "confident" he isn't seeing any other women now. Why are you confident? This man has a roving eye and trouble telling the truth. If you are looking for a faithful husband, he isn't it.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I treated myself to a facelift several years ago, and I'm very pleased with the results. However, I don't like revealing this to people. I believe it's personal and my own business, even if it's evident because of my age.

The problem is people who feel the need to delve into my life for whatever their reasons and, once they find out through logic, I become the topic of conversation and ridicule. I have been hurt deeply, embarrassed and made the fool several times, and I have no idea why anyone would care.

I respect and love my husband and don't flaunt myself at men, but I have been accused of it. It's hurtful because I am a "people person," and I find the criticism and mockery to be cruel. I'm at a loss about how to handle this other than to hide in my home. Please give me some advice. Thank you.

LOOKING GOOD IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR LOOKING GOOD: There is nothing shameful about wanting to look your best. Many women (and men) who can afford it avail themselves of cosmetic surgery. You have already been "unmasked" by these jealous people, so you might as well smile, stand up straight and own it. Because your result was so good, you might even offer to share the name of your surgeon. Hiding hasn't worked, so step out and be proud. You paid for that face. Put it out in public!

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

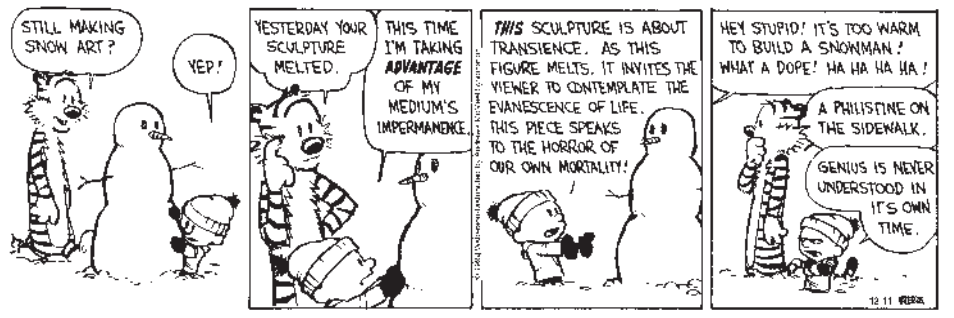
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


STILL MAKING SNOW ART?
YEP!
YESTERDAY YOUR SCULPTURE MELTED.
THIS TIME I'M TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY MEDIUM'S IMPERMANENCE.
THIS SCULPTURE IS ABOUT TRANSIENCE. AS THIS FIGURE MELTS, IT INVITES THE VIEWER TO CONTEMPLATE THE EVANESCENCE OF LIFE. THIS PIECE SPEAKS TO THE HORROR OF OUR OWN MORTALITY!
HEY STUPID! IT'S TOO WARM TO BUILD A SNOWMAN! WHAT A DOPE! HA HA HA HA!
A PHILISTINE ON THE SIDEWALK.
GENIUS IS NEVER UNDERSTOOD IN IT'S OWN TIME.
12 11

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Dear Santa,
TIC TIC TIC
Please note...
TIC TIC TIC TIC TIC TIC
I can't be held responsible for what I say when I'm dieting
TIC TIC TIC TIC TIC TIC TIC TIC
JIM DAVIS 12-11

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU SHOULD COME UNDER HERE. LOOKING UP THROUGH THE LIGHTS AND ORNAMENTS IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
FINE. I'LL... HERE I COME.
OOH!
NOW IT'S MELLS LIKE SWEATY BROTHER UNDER HERE.
THIS TREE AIN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE BOTH OF US.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW WRONG THE WEATHERMAN WAS. ALL THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE RAIN.
IMAGINE HAVING ALL THAT MODERN TECHNOLOGY TO DO YOUR JOB, AND YOU DON'T GET IT RIGHT.
YEAH. WE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY.
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO FIRST — GO SLEDDING OR BUILD A SNOWMAN?
SLEDDING!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

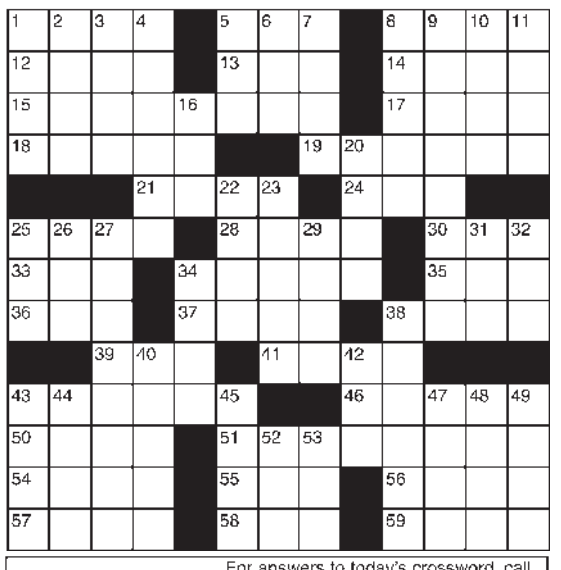
ACROSS
1 Fine cotton
5 "The Office" character
8 Recipe meas.
12 Hibernia
13 "As I see it," to a texter
14 Assess
15 Crested parrot
17 Actor Cumming
18 Furtive type
19 Circus clown's props
21 Impetuous
24 Whatever
25 Dad
28 Mexican money
30 Sandwich meat
33 Before
34 Casual shirts
35 Low digit
36 Teeny
37 Salt Lake City squad
38 Castle defense
39 Actor Penn
41 "Uh-uh"
43 Shrimp recipe
46 Bumbling
50 "Waterloo" group
51 Down Under hopper
54 Some August babies
55 Green prefix
56 Fed. agents
57 Cupid's alias
58 PC key
59 Takes courses?

DOWN
1 Chest muscles, briefly
2 Pressing need
3 Small rodents
4 Turkey's capital
5 Peach center
6 "I love," to Ovid
7 Pastoral greetings
8 Commuter's choice
9 Hype
10 Doc's "Now!"
11 Signature pieces?
16 Wanted poster abbr.
20 New Mexico resort
22 Ladybug's feature
23 Mirren of "The Queen"
25 Church seat
26 "How — you?"
27 Nursery game
29 Mediocre
31 Navarro on "The View"
32 Ran into
34 "— Fiction"
38 Household
40 Gather
42 Potbellied pet
43 Auction
44 Driver with a handle
45 Furniture brand
47 Ms. Bombeck
48 Bard
49 Oodles
52 Oft-torn knee part, for short
53 "— so fast!"

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	P	P	S	■	B	I	C	■	S	K	E	W
N	E	A	T	■	O	R	O	■	A	I	D	A
G	A	M	E	P	L	A	N	■	V	E	I	L
■	■	■	E	A	T	■	S	N	I	V	E	L
D	A	I	L	Y	■	L	E	O	N	■	■	■
A	L	M	S	■	W	O	R	D	G	A	M	E
N	B	A	■	S	H	O	V	E	■	W	I	N
G	A	M	E	T	I	M	E	■	S	O	L	D
■	■	■	V	E	T	S	■	A	T	L	A	S
C	A	N	A	P	E	■	E	C	O	■	■	■
P	A	I	D	■	H	O	M	E	G	A	M	E
A	R	N	E	■	O	H	M	■	I	B	I	D
S	E	A	R	■	T	O	Y	■	E	S	A	U

Yesterday's answer 12-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mo'Nique, 57; Gary Dourdann, 58; Jermaine Jackson, 70; Bess Armstrong, 71.

Happy Birthday: Test yourself, do the legwork and push your mind to figure out what matters most and how to get your life on a fast track to achieving your goals and finding your bliss. It's up to you to control what you believe and how you follow through. A passionate approach to earning your living and utilizing your cash to ensure comfort and peace of mind is in your best interest. Your numbers are 8, 14, 24, 27, 31, 38, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Listen and assess situations carefully. Learn all you can, verify what you discover, revise your goals and plot out a plan to stay in control while building a solid financial foundation. Attend events that interest you and expand your circle of friends. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Emotional situations will escalate fast. 'Tis the season to be kind, generous and forgiving, so avoid getting into an argument or a no-win situation. Protect your relationships from outside influences that pressure you or your loved ones. Pay attention to price tags and avoid overspending. Channel your energy wisely. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You'll have plenty of opportunities, but not all will be in your best interest. Consider what's important and how to get the most for your money, time and skills. Charm, showing interest in what others do and using your intelligence to market your vision will pay off. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take the high road and utilize your skills to separate yourself from anyone who chooses to compete with you. A display of compassion or letting down your guard can cost you if you don't get your facts straight before standing up for someone else. Avoid risky situations. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Refrain from getting tangled up in the hustle that the festive season inevitably fosters. Take a moment to breathe deeply, rethink your strategy and organize your day accordingly. Your aim should be helping others during this frantic time of the year and reducing the onus of buying love with elaborate gifts. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Situations will escalate quickly if someone close to you overreacts, spends or indulges in an unhealthy manner. Establish boundaries and set a good example through your actions and invitations to participate in healthy activities and intelligent lifestyle choices. The best way to impress someone is with charm. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Traveling, attending get-togethers or fixing up your space for upcoming festivities will stimulate your mind and encourage positive personal change that updates your look and appeal. Someone from your past will impact how you raise your profile or lifestyle. Explore the possibilities. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Your actions will not go unnoticed. Be fair and honest and live up to your promises to avoid upsetting someone you love or depend on for help. Rely on your creative imagination to use what's available to brighten your surroundings and reflect this time of the year. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Dismiss anyone interfering in your affairs or limiting what you can do or say. Pay attention to how you present your ideas and develop your skills. Remember what's trending, but refuse to buy into an idea or plan benefiting someone else more than you. Make fitness a priority. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Intelligence and charm will help you march forward with less interference. Pay attention to what others are going through while offering kindness and easy solutions; you will win favors in return. A secretive approach to domestic change will help you achieve your objective. Avoid participating in events that pose health risks. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Dodge a bullet and avoid situations that promote emotional mayhem. Set your sights on changes you can implement that make life more convenient and that mellow out the personalities of those you encounter daily. Keeping the peace will encourage others to pitch in and help instead of standing in your way. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Source information carefully and share only what's verified. Investigate your options and consider how to use your skills to do something that you feel is more exciting or lucrative. Be careful not to let your emotions take over when dealing with money matters or trying to buy love. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, playful and bold. You are resourceful and disciplined.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	7			9	8		
8	1			2			3	
6					1	4		
	5	6		7				3
3	8			1			9	4
7			9					
1								
	6	8	3		7		5	
2				4		9		

Difficulty: ★★★ 12/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	4	3	9	7	6	5	8	2
8	2	6	3	4	5	7	9	1
5	7	9	8	1	2	4	6	3
6	8	1	4	3	9	2	7	5
3	5	7	2	6	8	1	4	9
2	9	4	7	5	1	8	3	6
4	6	2	1	9	7	3	5	8
7	1	5	6	8	3	9	2	4
9	3	8	5	2	4	6	1	7

Difficulty: ★★ 12/10

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'DAISY JONES & THE SIX' (MINISERIES) **Solution: 10 letters**

L	P	O	N	O	S	I	R	R	A	H	S	O	J	G
Y	I	I	H	S	O	N	G	W	R	I	T	E	R	R
E	R	N	C	G	S	N	O	Z	A	M	A	O	O	A
L	T	A	T	O	U	R	R	A	T	I	U	G	O	H
I	S	B	R	Ⓔ	N	O	C	R	L	P	Y	S	M	A
R	T	I	U	Ⓜ	R	O	E	U	E	D	M	U	M	M
E	E	Y	T	Ⓐ	N	V	J	K	D	B	M	K	A	I
T	S	A	H	Ⓕ	O	S	I	E	E	E	E	I	T	C
D	N	B	E	C	E	N	T	E	C	N	V	W	E	H
A	U	S	A	A	E	N	A	R	W	I	O	O	A	A
T	S	L	S	R	Y	I	C	N	E	S	S	M	L	E
S	S	O	R	L	A	E	D	O	G	C	D	U	I	L
U	N	A	L	E	N	N	U	D	R	E	N	N	M	S
E	W	I	L	L	P	R	I	C	E	E	L	O	A	E
N	B	S	K	A	R	E	N	I	T	F	A	L	C	B

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Amazon, Band, Billy, Camila, Claftin, Concerts, Confess, Deal, Dunne, Eddie, Emmy, Encore, Fame, Graham, Group, Guitar, Harrison, Icon, Interviews, Josh, Julia, Karen, Keough, Love, Michael, Music, Nabiyab, Neustadter, Price, Riley, Roommate, Season, Simone, Songwriter, Suki, Sunset Strip, Teddy, Tour, Truth, Vocals, Warren, Weber, Will

Yesterday's Answer: Boulevard

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Burrow and Chase lift Bengals past Cowboys, 27-20

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Joe Burrow threw a tiebreaking 40-yard touchdown pass to Ja'Marr Chase after Dallas botched a blocked punt to give the ball back to Cincinnati in the final two minutes, and the Bengals beat the Cowboys 27-20 on Monday night.

The Cowboys were about to get the ball back with the score tied on the first play after the two-minute warning when Nick Vigil blocked a punt by Cincinnati's Ryan Rehkow.

Amani Oruwariye tried to field the bouncing ball when leaving it alone would have given Dallas possession. Oruwariye couldn't hold on, and the Bengals' Maema Njongmeta recovered at the Cincinnati 43-yard line with 1:53 remaining.

Three plays later, Burrow threw to Chase, who evaded DaRon Bland and ran untouched the rest of the way for the lead with 1:01 to go.

AP

Dallas Cowboys linebacker Nick Vigil (41) reacts after a punt he blocked was recovered by the Cincinnati Bengals during the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 9, 2024, in Arlington, Texas.

The winning TD secured a fourth consecutive game of at least 300 yards passing and three touchdowns for Burrow, who finished with 369 and three scores, two to Chase.

This was the first victory in that stretch as the Bengals (5-8) ended a three-game losing streak. Chase, the NFL leader in yards receiving and touchdowns, had 177 yards and is up to 15 TDs.

The second one-score victory in a puzzling season for the defensively challenged Bengals came after all three losses during their second three-game skid — and seven of their eight defeats this season—were by seven points or less.

"We needed a break," Burrow said. "We haven't got many this year, but it was nice to get that one and nice to come out of this with a win."

Cooper Rush threw two TD passes and Rico Dowdle ran for a career-high 131 yards as the Cowboys (5-8) saw the end of a modest two-game winning streak after losing five in a row.

The Bengals ended a five-game losing streak against the Cowboys with their first victory in the series since 2004.

The Cowboys lost linebacker DeMarvion Overshown to a right knee injury in the fourth quarter. It came in the first game for Dallas since his spectacular 23-yard interception return for a touchdown in a 27-20 victory over the New York Giants on Thanksgiving.

The gaffe from Oruwariye, who was activated off injured reserve after the missing the previous five games with a back injury, was reminiscent of one of Dallas' lowest Thanksgiving moments.

At snow-covered Texas Stadium in 1993, Leon Lett inexplicably slid in to try to recover a blocked field goal in the final seconds that would have given Dallas a victory over Miami. The Dolphins recovered and kicked a field goal on the final play of a 16-14 victory.

NFL fines Jaguars' Engram after he defended QB Lawrence following season-ending hit

The NFL fined Jacksonville tight end Evan Engram for a late hit after he defended Jaguars QB Trevor Lawrence, among Week 13 fines announced Saturday.

Also, the Chicago Bears' Tyrique Stevenson was fined for tripping a player on the sideline, and the Pittsburgh Steelers' George Pickens was fined—twice—for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Engram was fined $11,255, Stevenson $19,697 and Pickens $10,231 for each, totaling $20,462.

Engram was among a number of Jacksonville players who went after Texans linebacker Azeez Al-Shaair after he delivered a violent late hit on Lawrence as the quarterback was attempting to slide. Lawrence was carted off the field after the shot to the facemask, a hit that caused a sideline-clearing brawl and a second scuffle a few minutes later. Lawrence was ruled out of the game with a concussion and shut down for the season.

Stevenson was caught in a sideline mix-up with Lions wide receiver Jameson Williams, who was flagged on the play for tossing the ball at the defensive back's face. Stevenson appeared to have stuck his leg out as Williams momentum took him out of bounds after a play. Williams fell, got up and tossed the ball at Stevenson.

The wide receiver Pickens was fined for taunting in the first quarter and a violent gesture in the third quarter against the Bengals. ***(AP)***

Saquon Barkley is chasing Eric Dickerson's NFL season rushing record. Can he do it?

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Eagles fans serenaded Saquon Barkley with chants of "MVP!" after a 9-yard run gave him the team's season rushing record.

Barkley set the record in style—passing Eagles Hall of Famers Wilbert Montgomery and record holder LeSean McCoy in a single game—as he rushed for 124 yards to push his season total to 1,623 in a 22-16 victory over Carolina.

The total was enough for Barkley to top McCoy's 1,607 yards in 2013.

Barkley also maintained his pace to break Eric Dickerson's NFL single-season rushing record of 2,105 yards, set in 1984 with the Los Angeles Rams.

At his pace, Barkley should that reach milestone, even possibly ahead of the 17th game of the season that Dickerson and the NFL did not have in 1984.

Barkley captioned an Instagram post "Thankful" with a checked box next to "franchise single-season rushing yards record."

Here's a look at what's ahead for Barkley and his chances of catching Dickerson:

Where does Barkley stand in the record chase?

Barkley leads the NFL in rushing with 1,623 yards, a hefty 216 yards ahead of Baltimore's Derrick Henry at 1,407 (though the Ravens had a bye Sunday).

He is averaging 124.8 yards per game. At that pace, and with one more game to play than Dickerson had, he would become the top single-season rusher in NFL history. He needs 483 yards over the final four games to top Dickerson's 40-year-old record. Barkley is on pace for 2,122 yards, which would put him just 17 yards beyond Dickerson's 2,105 total.

What's the schedule like for Barkley?

Just on the quality of defenses alone, Barkley faces little pushback down the stretch.

He feasted against a Panthers defense that was one of the worst against the run in the NFL. Barkley averaged 6.2 yards on 20 carries against Carolina and could easily expect to match that pace over at least three of the next four games.

The Steelers come to Philadelphia on Sunday and should provide the stiffest test to Barkley in his record pursuit. Pittsburgh is fourth in the NFL in run defense.

After the Steelers, Barkley could run wild.

The Eagles' final three opponents—Washington, Dallas and the Giants—all rank near the bottom of the league against the run.

Why is Barkley with the Eagles?

The 27-year-old Barkley has flourished in his first season with the Eagles.

He is among the favorites for league MVP, according to BetMGM Sportsbook. Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen was the only player with better MVP odds on Monday.

Barkley might enjoy the delicious twist of setting the record against his old team, the Giants — but surely not the 17th-game asterisk that would come with the total.

Barkley was drafted out of Penn State with the No. 2 overall pick in the 2018 draft. He was an instant success in New York and ran for 1,307 yards his rookie season. Barkley ran for 5,211 yards and 35 touchdowns and had 288 receptions for 2,100 yards and 12 TDs in six years with the Giants.

He hit free agency after the Giants elected not to put a franchise tag on him.

Barkley signed a three-year deal with the Eagles for $26 million guaranteed and $37.75 million overall, making him the highest-paid running back in franchise history.

His free agency was chronicled by the reality sports documentary television series "Hard Knocks."

In the crucial scene, Giants general manager Joe Schoen told Barkley the Giants would not make him an offer, nor stick the franchise tag on him. Rather, the Giants would let Barkley test the free-agent market, a move that sent him to an NFC East rival.

"I'll have a tough time sleeping if Saquon goes to Philadelphia, I'll tell you that," team owner John Mara said to Schoen in the series. "As I've told you, just being around enough players, he's the most popular player we have, by far."

Under general manager Howie Roseman, the Eagles generally had been loath to use high draft picks or valuable salary cap space on a running back.

Barkley was deemed a worthy exception.

Can Barkley stay healthy?

Barkley has been a workhorse this season and worked a heavy load in New York—when he was healthy. Barkley only twice played in 16 games with the Giants.

He played in 14 games last season, missing three because of a high ankle sprain. He ran for 962 yards and six touchdowns. He was limited to two games in 2020 after he suffered a torn ACL.

Barkley has played through minor injuries this season and proved his durability by leading the NFL with 266 carries.

But injuries might not be his only potential problem. The Eagles' nine-game winning streak has them sitting as the No. 2 seed in the NFC. Should they clinch that spot early, the final game against New York could be meaningless and coach Nick Sirianni could have to decide if Barkley goes for the mark or sits out ahead of the playoffs.

Who was Eric Dickerson?

Sporting his trademark goggles and Jheri curl, Dickerson was one of the great running backs in the 1980s, and the Hall of Famer was widely considered one of the best of all time.

Dickerson finished his career with 13,259 yards, the ninth-most in NFL history. Emmitt Smith holds the career NFL rushing record with 18,355 yards.

In 1984, Dickerson topped 100 yards rushing 12 times to break Buffalo's O.J. Simpson's 1973 record of 2,003 yards rushing in a single season.

Simpson set his record in 14 games before the NFL expanded to 16 in 1978. The NFL moved to 17 games in 2021.

Towns leads Knicks in victory over Raptors for 5th win in six games

TORONTO (AP) — Karl-Anthony Towns returned from a one-game absence with 24 points and 15 rebounds, Jalen Brunson had 20 points and 11 assists and the New York Knicks held on to beat the Toronto Raptors 113-108 on Monday night for their fifth win in six games.

Towns broke a tie by scoring a layup with 36 seconds left in the game, then sealed the win by making a 3-pointer on New York's next possession.

Mikal Bridges scored 23 points as the Knicks won their fifth straight meeting with the Raptors. OG Anunoby added 14 points against his former team and Josh Hart had 10.

Raptors forward Scottie Barnes left midway through the third quarter because of a sprained right ankle. Barnes was helped off the court by teammates before hopping to the locker room, unable to put weight on his right foot.

Barnes missed 11 games earlier this season because of a right orbital fracture and has worn protective glasses since returning Nov. 21. Toronto went 2-9 without the 2022 NBA Rookie of the Year.

RJ Barrett scored 30 points for Toronto, and Jakob Poeltl had 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Towns returned after sitting out Saturday's loss to Detroit because of a sore right knee. Guard Cam Payne (left elbow) also returned for the Knicks.

Rookie guard Ja'Kobe Walter matched his career high by scoring 14 points in the first half. Walter finished with 19 points.

Towns made only one of his first four attempts from long range before making the decisive 3-pointer with six seconds remaining.

New York hosts Atlanta in the NBA Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday. Toronto's next game is Thursday at Miami.

Toronto forward Scottie Barnes left the Raptors' game against the New York Knicks on Monday night midway through the third quarter because of a sprained right ankle.

Barnes was helped off the court by teammates before hopping to the locker room, unable to put weight on his right foot.

After Toronto lost 113-108, Raptors coach Darko Rajakovic said initial X-rays on Barnes' foot did not reveal a fracture.

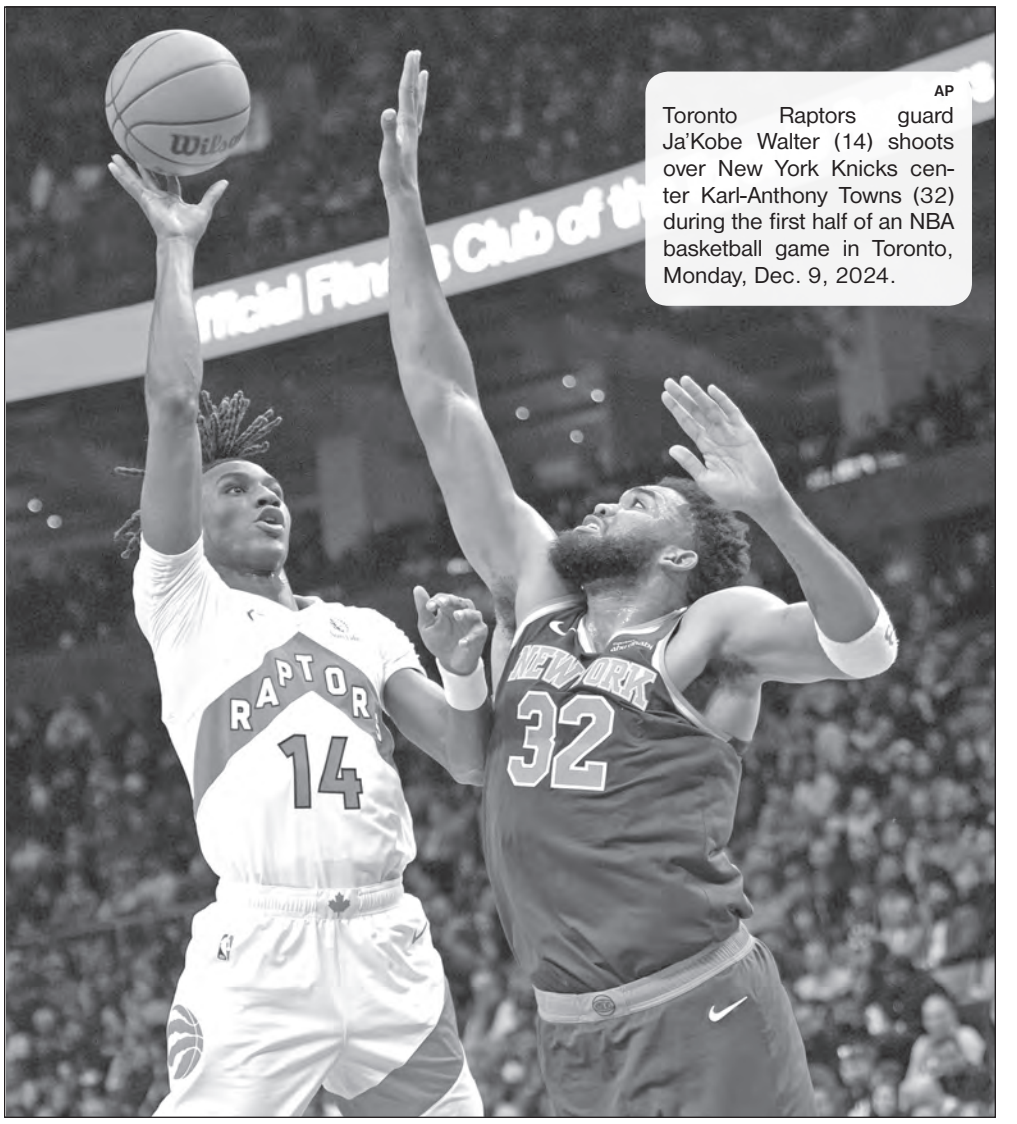
The 2022 NBA Rookie of the Year, Barnes will be evaluated again Tuesday morning, Rajakovic said. Toronto's next game is Thursday at Miami.

Barnes was injured when he landed on New York's Karl-Anthony Towns while battling for a defensive rebound with 6:47 left in the third quarter. Barnes scored 15 points in 23 minutes before exiting.

Barnes missed 11 games earlier this season because of a right orbital fracture and has worn protective glasses since returning Nov. 21. Toronto went 2-9 without him.

A first-time All-Star last season, Barnes signed a contract extension this summer that could reach around $270 million if he meets supermax criteria.

Barnes came into Monday's game averaging career highs of 21 points, 8.7 rebounds and 7.8 assists.



AP

Toronto Raptors guard Ja'Kobe Walter (14) shoots over New York Knicks center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Toronto, Monday, Dec. 9, 2024.

Doncic moves into 7th place on triple-double list with the 79th of career

AP

Dallas Mavericks' Luka Doncic (77) protects the ball from Toronto Raptors' Gradey Dick (1) during second half NBA basketball action in Toronto on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024.

TORONTO (AP)—Luka Doncic's 79th career triple-double moved the Dallas Mavericks star past some impressive NBA talent.

Doncic had 30 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists for his second straight triple-double as the Mavericks extended their winning streak to seven games with a 125-118 win over the Toronto Raptors on Saturday.

This triple-double moved Doncic past Wilt Chamberlain and James Harden on the NBA's all-time list and into sole possession of seventh place.

Next in Doncic's sights? Mavericks head coach Jason Kidd, who had 107 triple-doubles in his 19-year NBA career.

"I guess I've got to sit him," Kidd joked of Doncic.

Don't count on that. Doncic will go for his third straight triple-double when the Mavs face Western Conference-leading Oklahoma City in an NBA Cup game on Tuesday night.

Doncic had 15 points, eight assists and six rebounds by halftime against the Raptors. He banked home a 35-foot 3-pointer at the second-quarter buzzer that gave Dallas a 70-54 lead at the break, and earlier threw a no-look, over-the-head assist to Irving for a 3-pointer in the first.

Doncic reached his triple-double on a defensive rebound with 1:58 left in the third. He had 21 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds in Thursday's win at Washington.

"That's an incredible feat for Luka," Kidd said of Doncic's move past Chamberlain and Harden. "When you talk about his skill set, filling up the stat sheet, he's had two here, he can run them off. We always expect him to have a triple-double or we sometimes take him for granted for triple-doubles. I think right now you can see that he's starting to get into a groove."

Doncic further impressed his coach by throwing several long assists against Toronto, including some from under his own basket.

"It's just incredible, the ability, the strength to be able to throw it that far," Kidd said. "He probably could have been a quarterback for the Cowboys."

Chris Paul moves into 2nd on NBA's career assists list against Pelicans

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—San Antonio Spurs point guard Chris Paul moved to second on the NBA's all-time assists list against the New Orleans Pelicans, the franchise where his 20-year career began, on Sunday

The 39-year-old Paul collected his 12,092nd assist on a 3-pointer from Victor Wembanyama with 7:06 remaining in the first half.

Paul surpassed former Phoenix and Dallas star Jason Kidd on the all-time list. John Stockton is the league's career leader with 15,806 career assists over 19 seasons, all with the Utah Jazz.

After failing to collect an assist in the opening quarter against New Orleans, Paul had three assists in the first five minutes of the second quarter to achieve the milestone.

"Yeah, it is wild," Paul said after Friday's loss to Sacramento. "I mean, five years ago I had seen that number and it's like, 'Man, you going to play long enough to do that?' Seriously. I mean, I remember being a rookie, I said that before, looking up in Utah, seeing John Stockton all-time steals and assist leader. So, yeah, it is kind of crazy. I mean, I'm grateful for the opportunity to still continue to play."

Paul played four seasons in New Orleans, back when the franchise was known as the Hornets, after he was selected with the fourth pick in 2005 NBA Draft. He was traded to the Los Angeles Clippers, where he spent six seasons before moving on to Houston, Oklahoma City, Phoenix and Golden State before signing with San Antonio in the offseason.

After primarily coming off the bench with the Warriors last season, Paul is averaging 10.4 points, 8.5 assists and 3.9 rebounds this season as a starter for the Spurs.

NBA BRIEFS

Spurs' Zach Collins fined $35,000 by NBA for obscene gesture after ejection

NEW YORK (AP)—San Antonio Spurs center Zach Collins was fined $35,000 by the NBA on Saturday for making an obscene gesture on the court after being ejected. Collins was thrown out with 9:07 remaining in the second quarter of the Spurs' 140-113 home loss to Sacramento on Friday night. When he got back to the bench area, he turned back and extended his middle finger to the referee. Collins had been called for his third foul, then given a pair of technical fouls. He finished with two points.

Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards fined $25,000

NEW YORK (AP)—Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards has been fined $25,000 for using profane language during a media interview, the NBA announced Monday. Edwards' comments came after the Timberwolves' 107-90 win at Golden State on Dec. 6. Edwards, a two-time All-Star, is averaging 26.4 points, 5.4 rebounds and 4.0 assists per game this season. Minnesota is off to a 12-11 start after reaching the Western Conference Finals last season.

BOX

From page 16

Blow after brow-splitting blow flew this way and that, as sweat dripped and slicked the professional-sized boxing ring in the center of the gym. No one was knocked out throughout the two-hour event, but the camaraderie between the islands and love for the sport seemed evident as each fighter congratulated the other after each fight.

Assistant coach of Mauler Boxing Club, Rich Manalo said of the event, "I think it was really nice… I think the event went really smoothly." As for the fighters that represented their respective clubs, he said, "These guys trained really hard. There's more to come.

With Guam fighters coming out to showcase their skills alongside Saipan's boxers, he said, "Guam is a great challenge. It's great for Saipan to invite Guam fighters so that way, we can broaden Saipan boxers' skills and stuff."

Cabael, who was the emcee of the event, said that the turnout of the crowd wasn't that great due to the many other events that day, but even with that he said it was successful.

"We had the opportunity to showcase real boxing tonight and I believe those that came really enjoyed being here and experiencing what boxing is all about. The good thing is we had Guam come in and provide us some competition," said Cabael. He said that the event was a long time coming and that preparations for it began last July.

He added that the purpose of this exhibition was to expose what Mauler Boxing Club and Al Cabael Production will do further in the future in terms of the sport.

The sponsors of the event were KZMI Radio, Power 99, Paradiso Resort and Spa, Alamo Car Rentals, Coca-Cola, Pacific Rim, C.K. Smoke House, Fritz Pacific, Kauila Enterprise, and the Saipan Legends Lions Club.

They also thanked the Northern Marianas Sports Association for their support and use of the gym, Roque Martin of the Guam RM Sport Team, Miguel Arrozal's Mauler Boxing team, Derek Cutting of Latte Built, MCA-MMA, and Dr. Tai Doram.

LEIGH GASES

Saipan's Jamaal Mresbang of Mauler Boxing Club, left, connects a jab at the face of Guam's Matt Mariano to RM Sports Boxing & Kickboxing Academy during the last bout and main event of the Inaugural Box CNMI Boxing Exhibition by Al Cabael Productions that featured CNMI and Guam boxers at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.

LEIGH GASES

Twelve-year-old A.J. Manalo goes for an uppercut while Mauler Boxing Club head coach Miguel Arrozal holds the mitt up during the opening demonstration of the Inaugural Box CNMI Boxing Exhibition by Al Cabael Productions that featured CNMI and Guam boxers at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.

LEIGH GASES

Saipan's Slade Adelbai of Latte Built connects on a powerful jab to the body of Guam's Alvin Ok of RM Sports Boxing & Kickboxing Academy during the third bout of the Inaugural Box CNMI Boxing Exhibition by Al Cabael Productions that featured CNMI and Guam boxers at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.

LEIGH GASES

Eighty-six-year-old boxer Barry Wicksman, right, is seen during his demonstration in the Inaugural Box CNMI Boxing Exhibition by Al Cabael Productions that featured CNMI and Guam boxers at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.

SWIMMERS

From page 16

The event started yesterday and will end on Sunday, Dec. 15. Raho had the first chance to make waves in her 100m backstroke event yesterday, but as of press time, her competition had not yet started.

With the team is Saipan Swim Club head coach Richard Sikkel and NMI Swimming Federation official John Hirsch.

Sikkel said of his expectations of the team, "All swimmers have their eyes set on national records. I expect Taiyo and Kouki to get very close. Piper and Maria both have good chances to reset the records. For the relay, I hope the swimmers will have fun and enjoy the process, be in the moment and soak it all in. They are in good spirits and ready to swim at their best times."

Looking ahead to the 2025 Pacific Mini Games in Palau, Sikkel said that Watanabe, Raho, and Batallones should be competing. As for Akimaru, he will be off the college, so Sikkel said, "we will have to see if he can take a quick trip [to] Palau."

All four swimmers bring with them experience from competing in multiple events, including the 2024 Micronesian Games, the 2023 Pacific Games, and other international competitions.

KANOA

From page 16

convert anymore goals, and Kanoa's keeper kept her clean sheet until the end to win the championship.

The Player of the Match Award went to lone scorer Yelynn Ha.

Kanoa's team, with Ha included Julie Chavez, Joselynn Atalig, Audrey Castro, Sophia Quintos, Irish Pagarao, Ericka Santiago, Aubrey White, Miley Mafnas, Beatrice Gross, Ayessa Tereyama, Princess Alcantara, Faith Arriola, Jane Malabanan, Deseha Mendiola, Roxanne Soriano, Vaniqa Torres, and Theresa Toves.

Irish Pagarao, the team's forward, said that the season was a good experience for her because she got to play with the younger Kanoa players. "I'm always happy to see the progress and how our grassroots is developing and I see how they improve so much.

"I also would like to thank NMIFA for always organizing the league and putting a lot of effort into making sure the community is active, especially our women's. Lastly, I want to thank Dove for always supporting the league. I am looking forward to the next season! You know what they say, 'health is wealth.'"

The Golden Boot Award went to Paire's Jannah Casarino, while the Golden Glove Award was presented to Toremy Baek of Shirley's. The Fair Play Award was given to Shirley's Alyssa Borlongan.

In the battle for third place, Paire ousted MP United Pink, 2-1.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES
NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	19	5	.792	–
New York	15	9	.625	4
Brooklyn	10	14	.417	9
Philadelphia	7	15	.318	11
Toronto	7	18	.280	12½

Southeast Division

Orlando	17	9	.654	–
Miami	12	10	.545	3
Atlanta	13	12	.520	3½
Charlotte	7	17	.292	9
Washington	3	19	.136	12

Central Division

Cleveland	21	4	.840	–
Milwaukee	12	11	.522	8
Indiana	10	15	.400	11
Chicago	10	15	.400	11
Detroit	10	15	.400	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	17	8	.680	–
Houston	16	8	.667	½
Dallas	16	8	.667	½
San Antonio	12	12	.500	4½
New Orleans	5	20	.200	12

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	18	5	.783	–
Denver	12	10	.545	5½
Minnesota	12	11	.522	6
Portland	8	16	.333	10½
Utah	5	18	.217	13

Pacific Division

Golden State	14	9	.609	–
L.A. Clippers	14	11	.560	1
L.A. Lakers	13	11	.542	1½
Phoenix	12	11	.522	2
Sacramento	12	13	.480	3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES
NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Buffalo	10	3	0	.769	397	268
Miami	6	7	0	.462	264	292
e-N.Y. Jets	3	10	0	.231	251	300
e-New England	3	10	0	.231	221	307

South

Houston	8	5	0	.615	308	288
Indianapolis	6	7	0	.462	267	298
e-Jacksonville	3	10	0	.231	238	345
e-Tennessee	3	10	0	.231	227	342

North

Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	323	238
Baltimore	8	5	0	.615	383	318
Cincinnati	5	8	0	.385	362	360
e-Cleveland	3	10	0	.231	232	335

West

y-Kansas City	12	1	0	.923	308	252
Denver	8	5	0	.615	305	234
L.A. Chargers	8	5	0	.615	277	207
e-Las Vegas	2	11	0	.154	236	361

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

x-Philadelphia	11	2	0	.846	342	234
Washington	8	5	0	.615	376	296
Dallas	5	8	0	.385	268	366
e-N.Y. Giants	2	11	0	.154	194	293

South

Tampa Bay	7	6	0	.538	363	309
Atlanta	6	7	0	.462	278	333
New Orleans	5	8	0	.385	290	292
Carolina	3	10	0	.231	233	388

North

x-Detroit	12	1	0	.923	417	234
Minnesota	11	2	0	.846	339	240
Green Bay	9	4	0	.692	349	274
Chicago	4	9	0	.308	254	278

West

Seattle	8	5	0	.615	302	283
L.A. Rams	7	6	0	.538	298	332
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	284	289
San Francisco	6	7	0	.462	308	308

e-eliminated from playoffs | x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Burrow and Chase lift Bengals past Cowboys, 27-20

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Towns leads Knicks in victory over Raptors for 5th win in six games

PAGE 14

Kanoa brings A-game to take Dove A champs

NMIFA

A League champion Kanoa Football Club poses for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the 2024 Fall Dove Women's League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

LEIGH GASES

Kanoa's Yelynn Ha poses with her Player of the Game Award during the awards ceremony of the A League in the 2024 Fall Dove Women's League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club upset No. 1 seed Shirley's FC, 1-0, in the 2024 Fall Dove Women's League to take the championship in the A League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The intensity on the pitch reflected the evenly matched gameplay that both teams brought, as evidenced by the low-scoring final result.

Kanoa, the No. 3 seed, however, rose from the ashes and left Shirley's choking on their dust, ultimately claiming the championship despite meandering in the middle of the pack during the regular season.

The battle of supremacy waged on as supporters brought the heat with their cheers on the bleachers and fired up the players on both teams.

And, while the day was hot, Kanoa was hotter with their bright orange jerseys giving the illusion that they were on fire—and it showed with a goal by Yelynn Ha in the 12th minute.

That was the lone goal of the game with both keepers not wanting to

See KANOA on Page 15

Swimmers off to World Aquatics Swimming Champs

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI swimmers, from left, Taiyo Akimaru, Frances Piper Raho, Maria Batallones, and Kouki Watanabe pose for a group photo in Budapest, Hungary for the World Aquatics Swimming Championships 2024.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four NMI swimmers are competing in the World Aquatics Swimming Championships 2024 in Budapest, Hungary.

The four seasoned yet young aquatic competitors are Taiyo Akimaru competing in the 50m freestyle and 100m individual medley; Frances Piper Raho is swimming in the 100m and 200m backstroke; Maria Batallones is taking on the 100m individual medley and 200m breaststroke, while Kouki Watanabe is swimming the 100m and 200m breaststroke.

The crew will also compete in the 4x50m and 4x100m mixed medley relays.

See SWIMMERS on Page 15

Box CNMI Boxing Exhibition a hit

LEIGH GASES

Mauler Boxing Club, its boxers, and Al Cabael Productions Company members pose for a group photo after the Inaugural Box CNMI Boxing Exhibition that featured CNMI and Guam boxers at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Inaugural Box CNMI Boxing Exhibition that featured CNMI and Guam boxers was a hit for fight fans that made their way to watch despite a busy and action-packed day of events last Saturday.

The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium was filled with a captivated audience as they watched the first boxing exhibition presented by Al Cabael Productions Company.

There were four bouts that kept the audience on the edge of their seats, and the event was opened by shadow boxing demonstrations and mitt work from master boxer 86-year-old Barry Wicksman and up-and-coming fighter 12-year-old A.J. Manalo.

After that, Saipan's Joseph Saltin of Mauler Boxing Club took on Guam's Jeran Tudela of MCA-MMA.

The second fight was Saipan's Jelmar Dadios of Banez Boxing Club vs. Guam's Hurao Acfalle of RM Sports Boxing & Kickboxing Academy.

The third bout featured Saipan's Slade Adelbai of Latte Built Gym and Guam's Alvin Ok of RM Sports Boxing & Kickboxing Academy.

The last fight and main event was between Saipan's Mauler Boxing Club firefighter Jamaal Mresbang and Guam's Matt Mariano of RM Sports Boxing & Kickboxing Academy.

See BOX on Page 15